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On the edge of America, census begins in a tiny Alaska town

By MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press
TOKSOOK BAY, Alaska (AP) — There are no restaurants in Toksook Bay, Alaska. No motels or movie theater, either. There also aren't any factories. Or roads. But the first Americans to be counted in the 2020 census live in this tiny community of 661 on the edge of the American expanse. Their homes are huddled together in a windswept Bering Sea village, painted

vivid lime green, purple or neon blue to help distinguish the signs of life from a frigid white winterscape that makes it hard to tell where the frozen sea ends and the village begins. Fish drying racks hang outside some front doors, and you're more likely to find a snowmobile or four-wheeler in the driveway than a truck or SUV.

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In this Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020, photo, George Chakuchin, left, and Mick Chakuchin look out over the Bering Sea near Toksook Bay, Alaska.

Associated Press





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Continued from Front

In this isolated outpost that looks little like other towns in the rest of the United States, the official attempt to count everyone living in the country will begin Tuesday.

The decennial U.S. census has started in rural Alaska, out of tradition and necessity, ever since the U.S. purchased the territory from Russia in 1867.

Once the spring thaw hits, the town empties as many residents scatter for traditional hunting and fishing grounds, and the frozen ground that in January makes it easier to get around by March turns to marsh that's difficult to traverse.

The mail service is spotty and the internet connectivity unreliable, which makes door-to-door surveying important.

For those reasons, they have to start early here.

The rest of the country, plus urban areas of Alaska such as Anchorage, will begin the census in mid-March.

Some of the biggest challenges to the count are especially difficult in Toksook Bay, one of a handful of villages on Nelson Island, which is about 500 miles (805 kilometers) west of Anchorage and only accessible by boat or plane.

Some people speak only Alaska Native languages such as Yup'ik, or speak one language but don't read it. The U.S. census provides questionnaires in 13 languages, and other guides, glossaries and materials in many more. But none is one of 20 official Alaska Native languages. So local groups are bringing together translators and language experts to translate the census wording and intent so local community leaders could trust, understand and relay the importance of the census.

It wasn't an easy task. Lan-

guage can be very specific to a culture.

For example, there's no equivalent for "apportionment" -- the system used to determine representation in Congress -- in the language Denaakk'e, also known as Koyukon Athabaskan. So translators used terms for divvying up moose meat in a village as an example for finding cultural relevancy, said Veri di Suvero, executive director of the agency partner Alaska Public Interest Research Group

When the official count begins this week, the Census Bureau has hired four people to go door-to-door. At least two of them will be fluent in English and Yup'ik.

Places such as Toksook Bay that run this risk of being under-counted also desperately need the federal funds assigned based on population for health care, education and general infrastructure.

Yet mistrust of the federal government is high. That's true in many parts of the U.S., but especially in Alaska, where many have strong libertarian views, and even more in a rural community where everyone knows everyone, and someone asking for personal information is seen with suspicion.

"The No. 1 barrier to getting an accurate count throughout Alaska is concern about privacy and confidentiality and an inherent distrust of the federal government," said Gabriel Layman, chairman of the Alaska Census Working Group. "And that attitude is fairly pervasive in some of our more rural and remote communities."

The census is entirely confidential, Layman reassures people, and the Census Bureau can't give information to any law enforcement, immigration official to even to a landlord if you report if



A family prepares to leave after services at the St. Peter Fisherman Church, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Toksook Bay, Alaska.

Associated Press

you have 14 people living in your rental. Violating that privacy could land a Census worker behind bars with a hefty fine.

When the count begins on Tuesday, a Yup'ik elder who is part of a well-known Eskimo dancing group will be the first one counted.

Lizzie Chimiugak, whose age isn't known because records weren't kept but is anywhere from 89 to 93, is "the grandma for the whole community," said Robert Pitka, the tribal administrator of the Nunakuyak Traditional Council in Toksook Bay.

Steven Dillingham, the director of the U.S. Census Bureau, will be on hand for Tuesday's start.

Village officials will greet him at the town's airstrip and bring him to the school, where community members will bring traditional food, which could include seal, walrus, moose or musk ox. They'll have a ceremony with the dance group that includes Chimiugak, who will come to the school and dance in her wheelchair if the weather allows.

Mary Kailukiak, a town councilwoman, said she's one of the cooks.

"I'm thinking of maybe cooking up dried fish eggs, herring fish eggs," she said, pausing to speak to a reporter while ice fishing for tomcod and smolt on the Bering Sea, dressed in a black parka and snow pants and sporting a hat made by her daughter from sealskin and beaver. The eggs will be soaked

overnight and served with seal oil.

Then Dillingham will conduct the first official census count, or enumeration as it known, with Chimiugak, out of earshot of others to satisfy federal privacy laws. Pitka is hoping for nice weather -- it's been as cold as -20 Fahrenheit (-29 Celsius) lately -- as the nation's eyes turn west for the event: "It's going to be a very special moment." □

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U.S. VP Pence honors Martin Luther King Jr. at church service

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence gave a speech Sunday in remembrance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at a church service in Tennessee. Pence spoke at the Holy City Church of God in Memphis the day before the federal holiday named after the civil rights leader. "I'm here to pay a debt of honor and respect to a man who from walking the dirt roads of the Deep South, to speaking to hundreds of thousands on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, touched the hearts of

the American people and led the civil rights movement to triumph over Jim Crow," Pence said. Before the service, Pence toured the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, where King was fatally shot on April 4, 1968, while standing on a balcony. "But we're not here today to speak about that terrible day, but about a life of consequence and a life well lived," Pence said. Pence spoke about King's religion and how he "challenged the conscience of a nation to live up to our


highest ideals by speaking to our common foundation of faith. The vice president added: "He touched the hearts of millions of Americans and his words continue to inspire through this day." Acknowledging the nation's deep rift, Pence said that if Americans re-dedicate themselves to the ideals that King advanced while striving to open opportunities for everyone, "we'll see our way through these divided times and we'll do our part in our time to form a more perfect union." □





Vice President Mike Pence speaks to the Holy City Church of God In Christ congregation during his trip to Memphis on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

Associated Press

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National Archives says 'wrong' to blur anti-Trump signs

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— The National Archives said Saturday it made a mistake when it blurred images of anti-Trump signs used in an exhibit on women's suffrage.

The independent agency is charged with preserving government and historical records and said it has always been committed to preserving its holdings "without alteration."

But the archives said in a statement Saturday "we made a mistake." The archives' statement came one day after The Washington Post published an online report about the altered images.

The archives said the photo in question is not one of its archival records, but rather was licensed for use as a promotional graphic in the exhibit.

"Nonetheless, we were wrong to alter the image," the agency said.

The current display has been removed and will be replaced as soon as possible with one that uses the original, unaltered image,



President Donald Trump escorted by Col. Brian Daniels walks to board Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Friday, Jan. 17, 2020, en route to his Mar-a-Lago estate, in Palm Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

the archives said.

The exhibit about the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, blurred some anti-Trump messages on protest signs in a photo of the 2017 Women's March in Washington.

Signs that referred to women's private parts, which also were widespread during the march, which was held shortly after Trump took office, also were altered.

The archives said it will immediately begin a "thorough review" of its policies and procedures for exhibits "so that this does not happen again."

The American Civil Liberties Union called on the archives to issue a more detailed, explanation.

"Apologizing is not enough," Louise Melling, the organization's deputy legal director, said in a statement. "The National Archives must explain to the public why it

took the Orwellian step of trying to rewrite history and erasing women's bodies from it, as well as who ordered it."

Archives spokeswoman Miriam Kleiman told the Post for its report that the nonpartisan, nonpolitical federal agency blurred the anti-Trump references "so as not to engage in current political controversy."

References to female anatomy in the signs were obscured in deference to student groups and young people who visit the ar-

chives, Kleiman told the newspaper.

Kleiman did not respond to an emailed request for comment Saturday from The Associated Press. The public affairs office at the archives emailed the statement.

The archives issued the apology as thousands again gathered in Washington and in cities across the country Saturday for Women's March rallies focused on issues such as climate change, pay equity and reproductive rights. □



House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., takes a reporter's question as Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., announces impeachment managers before sending articles of impeachment to the Senate charging President Donald Trump for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020.

Associated Press

Schiff accuses NSA, CIA of withholding documents on Ukraine

By **HOPE YEN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee is accusing U.S. intelligence agencies of withholding documents from Congress on Ukraine that could be significant to President Donald Trump's impeachment trial.

"They appear to be succumbing to pressure from the administration," Rep. Adam Schiff said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." Schiff was selected by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., as the lead impeachment manager for Trump's Senate trial.

Schiff, D-Calif., contended

that the National Security Agency "in particular is withholding what are potentially relevant documents to our oversight responsibilities on Ukraine, but also withholding documents potentially relevant that the senators might want to see during the trial. That is deeply concerning." He also said "there are signs that the CIA may be on the same tragic course."

The intelligence community said it is working to respond to the committee's requests.

Democrats have previously criticized the State Department for withholding relevant documents to the impeachment inquiry. □

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ICE ups ante in standoff with NYC: 'This is not a request'

By JIM MUSTIAN

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal authorities are turning to a new tactic in the escalating conflict over New York City's so-called sanctuary policies, issuing four "immigration subpoenas" to the city for information about inmates wanted for deportation.

"This is not a request — it's a demand," Henry Lucero, a senior U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement official, told The Associated Press. "This is a last resort for us. Dangerous criminals are being released every single day in New York."

Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration said Saturday the city would review the subpoenas.

"New York City will not change the policies that have made us the safest big city in America," spokeswoman Freddi Goldstein said in an email.

The development comes days after ICE sent similar subpoenas to the city of Denver, a move that reflected the agency's mounting frustration with jurisdictions that do not honor deportation "detainers" or provide any details about defendants going in and out of local custody. The subpoenas sent to New York seek information about three inmates — including a man wanted for homicide in El Salvador — who were recently released despite immigration officials requesting the city turn them over for deportation.

The fourth subpoena asks for information about a Guyanese man charged this month with sexually assaulting and killing Ma-



Matthew Albence, right, the acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, speaks during a news conference, Friday, Jan. 17, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

ria Fuertas, a 92-year-old Queens woman.

That case became a flashpoint in the conflict after ICE officials said the city had released the woman's alleged attacker, Reeaz Khan, 21, on earlier assault charges rather than turn him over for deportation. Khan was charged with murder Jan. 10 and remains in custody.

New York City police say they didn't receive a detainer request for Khan, though ICE insists it was sent. Either way, the city would not have turned him over under the terms of New York's local ordinance governing how police work with immigration officials.

Hours before the subpoe-

nas were issued on Friday, the acting ICE director, Matthew Albence, told a news conference in Manhattan that city leaders had blood on their hands in Fuertas' death.

"It is this city's sanctuary policies that are the sole reason this criminal was allowed to roam the streets freely and end an innocent woman's life," Albence said.

Goldstein said in an email Saturday that "the Trump administration's attempt to exploit this tragedy are absolutely shameful."

De Blasio has accused ICE of employing "scare tactics" and spreading lies. He said on Twitter this week that the city has passed "common-sense laws about

immigration enforcement that have driven crime to record lows."

City officials in Denver said they would not comply with the requests, saying the subpoenas could be "viewed as an effort to intimidate officers into help enforcing civil immigration law."

"The documents appear to be a request for information related to alleged violations of civil immigration law," Chad Sublet, Senior Counsel to the Department of Safety in Denver, wrote in a letter to ICE officials.

But Lucero, ICE's acting deputy executive associate director for enforcement and removal operations, said the agency may

consult with federal prosecutors to obtain a court order compelling the city's compliance. "A judge can hold them in contempt," he told The AP.

Meanwhile, ICE is considering expanding its use of immigration subpoenas in other sanctuary jurisdictions.

"Like any law enforcement agency, we are used to modifying our tactics as criminals shift their strategies," Lucero said in a statement. "But it's disheartening that we must change our practices and jump through so many hoops with partners who are restricted by sanctuary laws passed by politicians with a dangerous agenda." □

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Illegal crossings plunge as U.S. extends policy across border

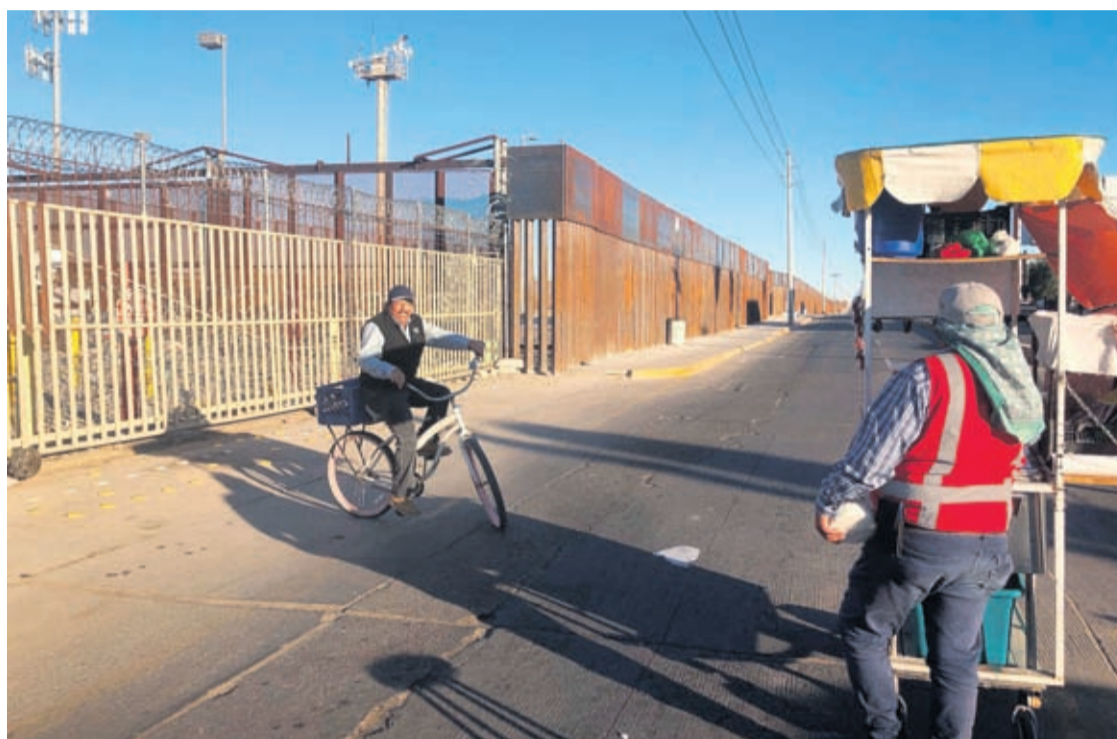
By ELLIOT SPAGAT

YUMA, Ariz. (AP) — Adolfo Cardenas smiles faintly at the memory of traveling with his 14-year-old son from Honduras to the U.S.-Mexico border in only nine days, riding buses and paying a smuggler \$6,000 to ensure passage through highway checkpoints. Father and son walked about 10 minutes in Arizona's stifling June heat before surrendering to border agents. Instead of being released with paperwork to appear in immigration court in Dallas, where Cardenas hopes to live with a cousin, they were bused more than an hour to wait in the Mexican border city of Mexicali.

"It was a surprise. I never imagined this would happen," Cardenas, 39, said while waiting at a Mexicali migrant shelter for his fifth court appearance in San Diego, on Jan. 24.

Illegal crossings plummeted across the border after the Trump administration made more asylum-seekers wait in Mexico for hearings in U.S. court. The drop has been most striking on the western Arizona border, a pancake-flat desert with a vast canal system from the Colorado River that turns bone-dry soil into fields of melons and wheat and orchards of dates and lemons.

Arrests in the Border Patrol's Yuma sector nearly hit 14,000 in May, when the policy to make asylum-seekers wait in Mexico took effect there. By October, they fell 94%, to less than 800, and have stayed there since, making Yuma the second-slowest of the agency's nine sectors on the Mexican border, just ahead of the perennially quiet Big Bend sector in Texas.



In this Jan. 10, 2020, photo, a snack vendor stands on a street as a cyclist goes by in San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico, leading to a border crossing in San Luis, Ariz. Months earlier, asylum seekers waited in line in tents in San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico.

Associated Press

Illegal crossings in western Arizona have swung sharply before, and there are several reasons for the recent drop. But Anthony Porvaznik, chief of the Border Patrol's Yuma sector, said the so-called Migration Protection Protocols have been a huge deterrent, based on agents' interviews with people arrested.

"Their whole goal was to be released into the United States, and once that was taken off the shelf for them, and they couldn't be released into the United States anymore, then that really diminished the amount of traffic that came through here," Porvaznik said.

In the neighboring Tucson sector, arrests rose each month from August to December, bucking a border-wide trend and making it the second-busiest corridor after Texas' Rio Grande Valley. Porvaznik attributes Tucson's spike to the absence of the policy there

until three months ago. In late November, the administration began busing asylum-seekers five hours from Tucson to El Paso, Texas, for court and delivering them to Mexican authorities there to wait. This month, officials scrapped the buses by returning migrants to Mexico near Tucson and requiring them to travel on their own to El Paso.

More than 55,000 asylum-seekers were returned to Mexico to wait for hearings through November, 10 months after the policy was introduced in San Diego. The immigrants were from more than three dozen countries, and nearly 2 out of 3 were Guatemalan or Honduran, according to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. Mexicans are exempt.

Critics say the policy is unfair and exposes asylum-seekers to extreme violence in Mexican border cities, where attorneys are

difficult to find. The American Civil Liberties Union and other groups asked to put the policy on hold during a legal challenge. The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments Oct. 1 and has not indicated when it will decide.

On Tuesday, critics scored a partial victory in a separate lawsuit when a federal judge in San Diego said asylum-seekers who are being returned to Mexico from California must have access to hired attorneys before and during key interviews to determine if they can stay in the U.S. while their cases proceed. Immigration judges hear cases in San Diego and El Paso, while other asylum-seekers report to tent camps in the Texas cities of Laredo and Brownsville, where they are connected to judges by video.

In Yuma, asylum-seekers are held in short-term cells until space opens up to be returned to Mexicali

through a neighboring California sector. Those interviewed by The Associated Press waited up to a week in Yuma, though Border Patrol policy says people generally shouldn't be held more than 72 hours.

Volunteers visit Mexicali shelters to offer bus tickets or a two-hour ride to Tijuana, along with hotel rooms for the night before court appearances in San Diego. Cardenas, who worked construction in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, said he feels unsafe in Mexico and that it was impossible to escape gangs in Honduras. "They are in every corner," he said.

Enma Florian of Guatemala, who crossed the border illegally with her 16- and 13-year-old sons near Yuma in August, doesn't know if she would stay in Mexico or return to Guatemala if denied asylum in the U.S. The grant rate for Guatemalan asylum-seekers was 14% for the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, compared with 18% for Salvadorans, 13% for Hondurans and 11% for Mexicans.

"The dream was to reach the United States," she said, holding out hope that she will settle with relatives in Maryland.

While illegal crossings have nosedived in Yuma, asylum-seekers still sign up on a waiting list to enter the U.S. at an official crossing in San Luis, Arizona. U.S. Customs and Border Protection calls the Mexican shelter that manages the list to say how many asylum claims it will process each day. The shelter estimates the wait at three to four months.

Angel Rodriguez, one of 143 Cubans on the shelter's waiting list of 1,484 people, has had bright moments in Mexico, including a beautiful Christmas meal. □

Clones help famous elm tree named Herbie live on, for now

By DAVID SHARP
YARMOUTH, Maine (AP)

— A massive elm tree nicknamed Herbie is long gone, but it is going to live on, thanks to cloned trees that are being made available to the public.

At 110 feet and more than 200 years, Herbie was the tallest and oldest elm in New England and survived 14 bouts of Dutch elm disease because of the devotion of his centenarian caretaker, Frank Knight, the late tree warden of Yarmouth, Maine.

The duo became famous after Knight spent half of his life caring for the tree, which he referred to as "an old friend." Knight realized he couldn't save the town's elms as they succumbed by the hundreds to Dutch elm disease. So he focused his efforts on one of them: Herbie.

Over five decades, Knight oversaw selective pruning of Herbie's diseased limbs, and applications of insecticides and fungicides. The pair became well known, both in Yarmouth and beyond, thanks to international news coverage.

The tree was cut down Jan. 19, 2010, as the 101-year-old Knight looked on. Knight died two years later. But before Herbie was chopped down, the Elm Research Institute in New Hampshire worked with Knight to collect some cuttings from Herbie to preserve the tree's legacy with clones.

The hope is that Herbie's descendants will have some resistance to Dutch elm disease. But that remains to be seen.

"Like many cancer patients, he was a survivor. We wanted to make every effort to reproduce Herbie hoping his clones would prove equally resistant to Dutch elm disease," said John Hansel, the 95-year-old founder of the Elm Research Institut based in Keene, New Hampshire.

The yearlong effort has created 1,500 mini Herbies.

The goal is to create many more — hundreds of thousands more, he said.

"Herbie is our hope for the future," Hansel said.

Hansel also devoted himself to preserving elm trees after they were wiped out by Dutch elm disease.

Elm trees once lined streets in towns from coast to coast. But all that changed with startling speed because of the Dutch elm fungus, spread by bark beetles, beginning in Ohio in the 1930s. Once afflicted, elms faced a swift and an all-but-certain death.

Working with the University of Wisconsin, Hansel helped to create and distribute about 300,000 "Liberty" elms that were based on trees from the Midwest. Those trees were named for Boston's "Liberty Tree," a giant elm.

Hansel shifted his effort to Herbie in hopes of creating a new standard bearer that's better suited to the Northeast.

It's been a painstaking process.

Researchers began clipping leaves from Herbie years before his demise. Researchers planted about 5,000 of clippings in pots before finally getting a single tree that took root.

From that, there are now 1,500 trees. That represents a critical mass to begin creating them in even larger numbers.

"I love the idea," said Jan Ames Santerre, urban forestry program coordinator for the Maine Forest Service. "People are interested in big trees in general, but Herbie captivated people's attention. It was a beautiful tree, and the idea that someone could re-create that in their yard or in their community is a very appealing thing to do," she said.

The National Arboretum also took an interest in Herbie and took some clippings, as well. Some of those seedlings were planted in Maine, but they didn't survive, Santerre said. □



In this Jan. 14, 2010 file photo, an arborist in a cherry picker cuts limbs from a massive elm tree, nicknamed Herbie, in Yarmouth, Maine.

Associated Press

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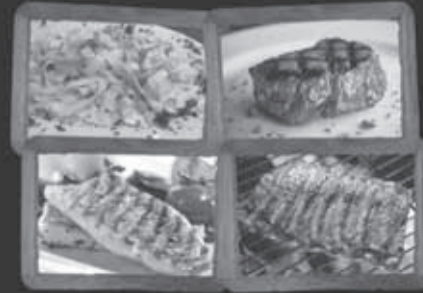
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In this Oct. 24, 2014, file photo, trekkers watch the sun rise over the Annapurna Range, right, in central Nepal, as viewed from Poon Hill, above the village of Ghorepani.

Associated Press

New avalanches in Nepal interrupt search for 7 trekkers

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — New avalanches falling on a popular trekking route in Nepal forced rescuers to halt their search for four South Korean trekkers and three Nepali guides who were believed to have been swept by a snowslide, an official said Sunday. Some 200 climbers have been rescued from other parts of the trekking trail and flown to safety by helicopters over the weekend, Department of Tourism official Meera Acharya said. Acharya said that new, smaller avalanches made it dangerous for rescuers to approach the area where the missing trekkers were last seen. A second search mission is being planned for the missing South Koreans and local guides but it would have to wait for snow and ice to stop falling before the operation resumes. The Friday ava-

lanche hit along the popular Mount Annapurna circuit trekking route following rains and snow earlier in the week. The South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the avalanche hit at an altitude of 3,230 meters (10,600 feet) before noon Friday. It said five other South Korean members of the same team were safe and taking shelter in a lodge. The missing trekkers - two women in their 30s and 50s and two men in their 50s - were teachers who were staying in Nepal for volunteer work, the ministry said, according to the Yonhap news agency. The agency said South Korea has dispatched an emergency response team of two government workers along with officials from an education body and a tourism agency to Kathmandu to assist in the search operations. □



A resident digs out his walkway in St. John's Newfoundland on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020.

Associated Press

Canadian military mobilized to help Newfoundland dig out

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland (AP) — Canada's federal government was mobilizing the Armed Forces Sunday to help Newfoundland and Labrador dig out from the monster blizzard that paralyzed eastern regions of the province with record-breaking amounts of snow and as forecasts call for more. Newfoundland Premier Dwight Ball asked for Ottawa's help on Saturday, and Minister of Natural Resources Seamus O'Regan said the federal government was working to deploy all available resources on the ground in St. John's. No details were immediately announced, however O'Regan said that ensuring

access to the city's main hospital would be a top priority. Canadian Armed Forces Operations said they hoped to arrive as early as Sunday to help the affected communities. Their expected tasks will include assisting with snow removal, providing transportation to warming or emergency centers and ensuring the elderly and those with health concerns are cared for. More snow was forecast Sunday evening. Meanwhile, a search resumed for a man who went missing during the weekend storm, with the Royal Canadian Police asking people in the area of Roaches'

Line to check sheds, vehicles and other structures on their properties in case 26-year-old Joshua Wall had taken shelter there. As the plowing, shoveling and snow blowing went on, states of emergency that were declared Friday in St. John's and several nearby communities remained in effect. Some other decrees were lifted Saturday, including the town of Bonavista north of the Avalon Peninsula, though the town still advised residents to avoid unnecessary travel. St. John's said Sunday morning, however, that it had lifted some restrictions on the state of emergency. □

UK treasury chief: Some businesses may hurt after Brexit

By GREGORY KATZ

LONDON (AP) — The British government has announced plans for special events on the night of Jan. 31 when the country officially leaves the European Union but the country's treasury chief has admitted that some U.K. business sectors will suffer as a result. Sajid Javid told the Financial Times in an interview Saturday that Britain's regulations will not be aligned with the EU in the future and that those changes may hurt some businesses. Currently the EU is Britain's largest trading partner.

"There will not be alignment, we will not be a rule-taker, we will not be in the single market and we will not be in the customs union — and we will do this by the end of the year," he said, referring to a deadline at the end of 2020 for conclusion of what are expected to be contentious trade talks with the then-27 member EU.

Javid's comments sparked fresh concerns among business leaders worried about that lack of clarity on the substance of the trade rules that would take effect in less than 12 months time. Food and Drink Federation chief Tim Rycroft warned that diverging from EU rules could lead to higher food prices for consumers.

"It will mean businesses will have to adjust to costly new checks, processes and procedures, that will act as a barrier to friction-less trade with the EU and may well result in price rises," he

said.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders emphasized the need to avoid high tariffs and other trade barriers once EU ties are severed.

Chief executive Mike Hawes said "billions" would be added to the cost of business development unless a mutually beneficial agreement is reached.

Britain will officially leave the EU bloc on the night of Jan. 31, even though it will keep following EU rules for an 11-month transition period. It will be the first nation ever to leave the bloc. The British government plans to mark the occasion with a series of upbeat events.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson plans to make a speech to the nation that night after holding a rare cabinet session in the north of England to emphasize his government's plan to spread opportunity to that economically beleaguered region.

The government also plans to mark Brexit by projecting a clock onto the prime minister's official residence at 10 Downing Street in London that will count down until 11 p.m., when the break takes place.

The entire government neighborhood of Whitehall is to be illuminated for the occasion as part of a light show, with Union flags flown on all the poles in Parliament Square. The government will also create a commemorative coin that will enter circulation that

day.

But Johnson's Conservative government is no longer actively pushing a plan to have the familiar chimes of the Big Ben clock tower at Parliament sound at 11 p.m. despite a private fundraising push in support of activating the chimes, which are under repair.

Britain voted in a 2016 referendum to become the first nation to leave the 28-nation EU, but the process has moved more slowly than expected. A stalemate last year kept a withdrawal bill from passing, leading to a rare December election that gave Johnson's pro-Brexit Conservative Party a strong majority in Parliament.

The Brexit divorce bill quickly passed when the new



Anti Brexit campaigner Steve Bray demonstrates outside Parliament in London, Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020. Britain is due to leave the European Union on Jan. 31.

Associated Press

Parliament convened. A transition period will last until the end of 2020 as negotiators try to forge a trade arrangement between Britain and the remaining EU

nations.

Johnson, who is also seeking a trade deal with the United States, has ruled out seeking an extension of the deadline for the EU talks. □



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Violence escalates in Beirut as protesters clash with police

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Security forces fired tear gas, water cannons and rubber bullets in clashes Sunday with hundreds of anti-government protesters outside Lebanon's Parliament, as violence continued to escalate in a week of rioting. At least 114 people were injured in the protests, according to the Red Cross and the Lebanese Civil Defense teams, with 47 taken to hospitals for treatment. Most of the wounds were from rubber bullets, some in the face and upper body, an Associated Press reporter said. Among the injured from rubber bullets were at least two journalists, including one from the local TV station Al-Jadeed news who was struck in the hand. Demonstrators threw rocks and other projectiles and even shot a stream of fire from ignited aerosol cans. Security forces responded with tear gas and water cannons before turning to rubber bullets to try to disperse the crowds. A few protesters tried to climb metal barriers separating them from the riot po-



Riot police fire rubber bullets against the anti-government protesters, during ongoing protests against the political elites who have ruled the country for decades, in Beirut, Lebanon, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

lice. Hundreds more, some chanting "Revolution," gathered farther down the blocked street that leads to the Parliament in central Beirut. Army troops were deployed to the area briefly, and the violence stopped as protesters cheered the troops. But the army pulled

out minutes later, and the clashes resumed with security forces barricaded behind the barriers. By late Sunday night, security forces and army troops were deployed in large formations to the blocked streets. Amid a downpour of rain and the advance of security forces, protesters retreated and the situation calmed in central Beirut. Army patrols briefly roamed the streets to prevent protesters from returning to outside the Parliament. During the rioting, protesters smashed the windows of two stores affiliated with an outgoing minister from the government they had accused of corruption. In one of the stores, a telecommunication company, the protesters smashed the windows and trashed the contents of the store as security alarms blared. Security forces reinforced the metal barriers surrounding the Parliament building earlier in the day, after the worst night of violence since the unrest erupted several months ago. There were nine hours of street battles with security forces Saturday as some protesters tried to scale the barriers. Those clashes left at least 377 people injured, the Red Cross and the Lebanese Civil Defense said. More than 120 were treat-

ed in hospitals, including a protester with an eye injury, as well as members of the security forces. Lebanon's Internal Security Forces said 142 of its members were injured, including seven officers, some with serious concussions. Lawyers defending protesters said 43 were arrested Saturday, including two minors. They said 11 were released the same day, and the other 32 were released Sunday, pending investigation. Most of the detainees were beaten while in custody, the lawyers added. The military made a show of force Sunday, with large numbers deployed in downtown Beirut and in southern Lebanon, patrolling ahead of the rallies. Riot police were in the front line guarding the Parliament. The clashes took place amid a rapidly worsening financial crisis and an ongoing impasse over the formation of a new government. Prime Minister Saad Hariri and the rest of the government resigned in late October. Prime Minister-designate Hassan Diab had been expected to announce a new 18-member Cabinet on Sunday after meeting with President Michel Aoun, but there was no announcement after a 90-minute meeting, signal-

ing another delay among the fractious political leaders. The protests, which began in October, took a violent turn last week as popular frustration began to rise. Demonstrators say the political elite has ignored their calls for forming an independent government to tackle the deepening crisis. "We don't accept the government the way they are forming it. They are using the old method to form the government ... so it's not acceptable," said protester Jil Samaha. "We want a different way of forming a government." Demonstrators have been rallying against those who have held power since the end of the 1975-90 civil war. They blame politicians for widespread corruption and mismanagement in a country that has accumulated one of the largest debt ratios in the world. Panic and anger have gripped the public as the Lebanese pound, pegged to the dollar for more than two decades, plummeted in value. It lost more than 60% of its value in recent weeks on the black market. The economy has seen no growth and flows of foreign currency dried up in the already heavily indebted country that relies on imports for most basic goods. Protesters targeted commercial banks, which have imposed informal capital controls, limiting the withdrawal of dollars and foreign transfers. Interior Minister Raya El Hassan on Saturday condemned the attacks on security forces and public and private property as "totally unacceptable." However, Human Rights Watch described the response by the security forces as "brutal," and called for an urgent end to a "culture of impunity" for police abuse. "There was no justification for the brutal use of force unleashed by Lebanon's riot police against largely peaceful demonstrators in downtown Beirut," said Michael Page, deputy Middle East director at HRW. □

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Japan's leader vows to boost nation's role in U.S. alliance

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged Sunday to bolster his country's role under its security pact with the U.S. in "outer space and cyberspace," as the allies marked the 60th anniversary of a treaty that has been the basis for their postwar defense alliance.

Abe's grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, who was prime minister at the time, signed the treaty in Washington on Jan. 19, 1960, with President Dwight Eisenhower. The treaty allows for the stationing of tens of thousands of U.S. troops and the deployment of American warships in Japan. In exchange, the U.S. is obligated to protect Japan in case of enemy attack.

"We have elevated the relationship to one in which each of us, the U.S. and Japan, protects the other, thereby giving further force to the alliance," Abe said in his opening remarks. "Going forward, it is incumbent upon us to make it even more robust, to make it a pillar for safeguarding peace and security in both outer space and cyberspace."

The anniversary comes as Washington adds pressure on Japan to shoulder more of the financial cost and play a greater defense role in the Asia-Pacific region to make up for a receding U.S. presence.

"As the security environment continues to evolve and new challenges arise, it is essential that our alliance further strengthen and deepen," President Donald Trump said in a statement marking the anniversary. "I am confident that in the months and years ahead, Japan's contributions to our mutual security will continue to grow, and the Alliance will continue to thrive."

The bilateral security treaty, initially designed to facilitate a greater U.S. presence in the Asia-Pacific region as a deterrent to Soviet threats, is a legacy of the Cold War era. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Washington and Tokyo have redefined the pact as a pillar for maintaining stability and prosperity in the region in the face of new threats from China and North Korea.

Sunday's anniversary was also a time for the grandchildren of the two leaders who signed the treaty to revisit history. In his opening remarks, Abe told Mary Jean Eisenhower, who was a guest at Sunday's reception, that their grandfathers played golf together in 1957 at Burning Tree Club near New York, fostering a friendship that led to the signing of the treaty.

Abe and the younger Eisenhower together looked at photos of their grandfathers playing golf that were on exhibit outside a recep-



Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, the great-grandson, left bottom, Mary Jean Eisenhower, granddaughter of former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, center bottom, and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pose for a group photo session as part of the 60th Anniversary commemorative reception of the signing of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty at the Iikura Guesthouse in Tokyo, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

Associated Press

tion hall.

President Eisenhower was to visit Tokyo for a ratification ceremony and perhaps another round of golf later in 1960, but the planned reunion never happened because escalating anti-U.S. military protests in Tokyo forced him to cancel his trip and Kishi to step down as prime minister.

Abe has pushed for Japan's Self-Defense Force to expand its international role and capability by bolstering cooperation and weapons compat-

ibility with the U.S., as it increasingly works alongside American troops. He is also campaigning to achieve his and his grandfather's long-cherished dream of amending Japan's postwar, U.S.-drafted pacifist constitution.

In 2015, Abe reinterpreted Japan's constitution to allow the use of force in defending Japan and its allies. He has bolstered Japan's defense budget, citing missile threats from China and North Korea.

Since Trump took office three years ago, Japan

has increasingly purchased costly American weapons, including F-35 stealth fighter jets, in an apparent attempt to reduce its trade surplus with the U.S. □

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Thousands camp in Guatemala as Mexico blocks migrant path

By **SONIA PEREZ D and MARIA VERZA**

Associated Press

TECUN UMAN, Guatemala

(AP) — The bridge spanning the Suchiate River between Mexico and Guatemala was open again for business Sunday, but few migrants crossed after a failed attempt by thousands of Central Americans to barge through the previous day.

More than 2,000 migrants spent the night in Tecun Uman, on the Guatemalan side of the border, uncertain of their next steps. Many got that far by traveling in caravan for greater safety and, they hoped, success in reaching the United States.

Mexico, pressured by the U.S. to halt the northward flow of migrants, is offering those who turn themselves over to authorities temporary jobs in southern Mexico, likely in agriculture or construction. But many of the migrants would rather pass through the country to try to start a new life in the U.S.

Volunteers spooned out a hot breakfast of beans, eggs, tortillas and coffee on Sunday to a line of migrants that stretched around the *Senor de las Tres Caidas*



Mexican National Guardsmen arrive to the Suchiate River in Ciudad Hidalgo, on the Mexican border with Guatemala, near Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

Associated Press

church, a blue and white Spanish colonial-style structure with a bell perched on top that's in the heart of Tecun Uman.

"We improvised this shelter because the other one was crowded," said Alfredo Camarena, vicar of the Catholic church.

Camarena estimated that more than 2,000 migrants spent the night in his church, in shelters or on the streets, and that several hundred more would arrive

in the coming days.

Mexican national guardsmen on Saturday slammed shut a metal fence that reads "Welcome to Mexico" to block the path of thousands of Central American migrants who attempted to push their way across the Rodolfo Robles Bridge.

Beyond the fence, on the Mexican side of the border, Mexican troops in riot gear formed a human wall to reinforce the barrier as the crowd pressed forward.

Mexican Gen. Vicente Hernández stood beyond the green bars, flanked by guardsmen, with an offer: Turn yourselves over to us, and the Mexican government will find you jobs.

"There are opportunities for all," he promised.

Migrants looking for permission to stay in Mexico passed through in groups of 20. As the day wore on, around 300 turned themselves over to Mexican immigration.

At a less frequently used border crossing called *El Ceibo*, nestled among national parks near the city of Tenosique in Mexico's Tabasco state, Guatemala's human rights defender's office reported Sunday that around 300 people opted to turn themselves over to Mexican authorities for processing.

Mexico's offer of employment, and not just legal status, represents a new twist in the country's efforts to find humane solutions to the mostly Central American migrants who are fleeing poverty and violence in their home countries.

Under threat of trade and other sanctions from the U.S., Mexico has stepped up efforts in recent months to prevent migrants from reaching their desired final destination: the U.S. Over the weekend, Mexican immigration officials de-

ployed drones to look for migrants trying to sneak into the country. The National Guard presence was also heavier than usual.

As the latest caravans approached Mexico on Friday, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador suggested that Mexico might be able to accommodate the migrants longer-term.

"We have more than 4,000 jobs available there along the southern border, and of course shelters and medical attention — everything — but on offer is work in our country," he said during a morning press briefing.

The offer of jobs to foreigners rankles some in Mexico, a country in which half the population lives in poverty and millions are unemployed.

López Obrador was quick to add Friday that "the same goes for our nationals, there's a way for them to have work."

Despite the offer, distrust ran high among the migrants congregating just south of the Mexican border with Guatemala. Some feared they would be swiftly deported if they handed themselves over to Mexican authorities.

A few, relying on unfounded rumors swirling among the migrants, said they suspected a more selfish motive behind Mexico's reinforcement of its southern border.

"We've heard that the president of the United States has opened the doors and that he even has work for us, and that the Mexicans don't want to let us pass because they want to keep all the work," said Carlos Alberto Bustillo of Honduras as he bathed in the Suchiate River.

The Suchiate has sometimes been a point for standoffs, as migrants group together for strength in numbers, hoping that they can force their way across the bridge, or wade across the river, to avoid immigration checks in Mexico.

The water levels of the river have been low enough this weekend to allow those who dare to simply trudge across. □

At least 75 flee from Paraguay prison; many from Brazil gang

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP)

— At least 75 inmates, many of them members of a notorious Brazilian gang, escaped from a Paraguayan prison in a border town on Sunday, according to authorities who said they immediately fired the prison's director.

Officials said they discovered a tunnel and found cells filled with as many as 200 bags of earth.

"It's not possible that nobody saw anything in all this time," Justice Minister Cecilia Pérez told the *Telefuturo* station. "This isn't the work of one day or one night."

Interior Minister Euclides Acevedo said in a statement that the tunnel itself

may have been a ruse to cover complicity by prison officials and that many of the inmates may have been allowed to walk out of the prison's main gate.

Acevedo said the majority of the escapees belong to the First Capital Command based in Brazil, which borders the city of Pedro Juan Caballero, where the prison is located. The gang was founded in the 1990s inside a Sao Paulo prison and it has extended its influence throughout the country, becoming one of Brazil's largest criminal organizations.

In Brazil, Justice Minister Sergio Moro said authorities were trying to prevent the

escapees from reentering the country. "If they enter Brazil again, they will only get a one-way ticket to federal prison," he tweeted. Brazilian authorities said 40 of the escapees were Brazilian, and said they had passed their names and photos to border police.

Acevedo said national police had been mobilized to hunt for the escapees.

The prison's director and head of security were fired and Pérez said the fight against organized crime isn't only against the Brazilian gang, "but also clearly against all the corruption within our system, which sadly is totally contaminated." □

LOCAL



Full laughter at Aruba Ray Ellin's phenomenal show Top American standup comics give fantastic performance



EAGLE BEACH — The “Aruba Ray’s Comedy” show features some of the funniest American standup comedians in a terrific 90-minute show, and Aruba Today was there and had a blast. The show is now on at the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba from January 9th until February 13th. It all begins and ends with host Ray Ellin. You will be amazed with his quick wit, sharp tongue and hilarious observations of the public, memorizing every targeted person in the audience throughout the whole show. Three top comedians took care of a full laughter show where you forget all your worries and walk out with a happy smile.

Celebrating six years of Excellence in Aruba, Aruba Ray’s Comedy is the number one rated Night Time Activity on TripAdvisor, the number one rated Show on TripAdvisor, and the number one rated Fun Activity on TripAdvisor. The show was named as one of USA Today’s “10 Best”. This is the same caliber show you

would find at the top comedy clubs in NYC. The line-up is truly some of the best and hottest comedians from the United States. This wonderful show is the best way to spend a night out “off-the-town”; so to speak.

Line-up during our visit was Dan Naturman, finalist on America’s Got Talent, Tony V from CBS’ “The Late Show”, Christine Hurley from “Last Comic Standing” and all three were simply the greatest in their own identical style. The setting is great in which you are seated close to the stage thus being able to see the mimics of the comedian, in the case of Hurley a must because she makes the funniest faces. The dry humor of Naturman, the rude jokes of Hurley and the ‘let’s have a chat’ way of Tony V all rocked. Ellin is a great host, welcoming the audience personally at the entrance and waving them out after the show. We felt truly relaxed and happy after two hours of gut-busting laughter and forgetting everything else.



Until February 13th the comedians that climb the stage will be Tom Cotter, Christine Hurley, Chuck Nice, Lenny Clarke and Tony V.

Ray Ellin is considered by his peers to be the best host in NYC, Ray is also known as “Aruba Ray” because of his passion for Aruba. Ray has been coming to Aruba every month for the past seven years, where he produces and hosts these incredible com-



edy shows. Already popular in New York, the comedian has brought his talent and some of his colleagues to Aruba.

Catch the show nightly at 8:30pm until February 13th in Holiday Inn Resort Aruba. Doors open at 8pm.

Check out Aruba Today newspaper to keep track of the schedule. You may also find updates at www.ArubaComedy.com. □

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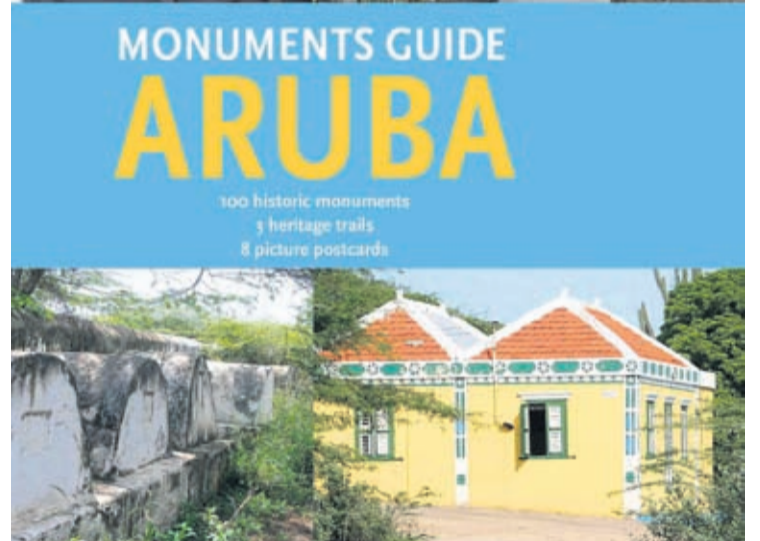
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Aruba Monuments Guide

ORANJESTAD — Aruba! Everyone knows this tropical island in the sun with pearly white beaches and palm trees swaying in the trade winds. But there's more to Aruba than this. It has a fascinating history, a diverse culture and a rich architecture.



Traces can still be found of the original indigenous inhabitants, and of the gold industry and aloe plantations. The island's architectural heritage includes historic churches, a fort and a lighthouse. And you will come across the island's characteristic cunucu houses wherever you go. The Aruba Monuments Guide will lead you through this wonderful cultural heritage along three routes: one driving route around the entire island, and two walking routes in the cities of Oranjestad and San Nicolas. You will discover places known only to insiders. And of course this guide also provides historical backgrounds and practical information. Check out the local book stores or pay a visit to the Monuments Funds (Facebook page: Stichting Monumenten Fonds Aruba) to get your copy. ☐

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Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Today likes to welcome readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine’s Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is (Email: news@arubatoday.com)

For today’s newspaper we received a great picture from **Nancy Lipka**. She wrote:

“Aruba is to us is one of the most wonderful things to look forward to each year. Bob and I have been coming to Aruba every year since 1995. We fell in love with the island ...the people are great and friendly, the weather is wonderful (we are from Buffalo, NY) , the water tastes great and we feel very safe. So many beautiful beaches to pick from. We have stayed at several different resorts over the years, and each one was great. Have made a lot of friends, both on the island and visitors that we stay in contact with all year long. So we look forward to our trip every year...one can never get too much sun and sand.”

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Today is International Day of Acceptance

ORANJESTAD — January 20th is a day dedicated to the social acceptance of disability and to honor the late Annie Hopkins, founder of 3E Love and creator of the International Symbol of Acceptance. The (International) Day of Acceptance is a valuable social entrepreneurial awareness experiment with a heart-warming back-story.

Annie Hopkins founded 3E Love to make the world a better place, also creating the International Symbol of Acceptance,

which shows a wheelchair in the shape of a heart. Together, the occasion and the symbol communicate the 3E Love ethos of devotion, equality, respect and understanding, to be adopted and appreciated by people of all abilities.

Disability owned and operated, 3E Love works to empower people through pride and passion, rather than charity. Taking control, following our dreams and being the best we can, regardless of physical factors, makes us what we are, and Annie's goal to share this with as many



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people as possible has proved a source of inspiration all across the world.

On January 20th 2009, Annie passed away due to unexpected complications during a simple medical procedure. Her memory lives on in the hearts of her friends and family, and it also lives on in the heart of the International Symbol of Acceptance. Annie's brother, Stevie Hopkins, who helped her start 3E Love, paid tribute to his sister's selfless efforts and vowed to keep them alive. On the first anniversary of Annie's passing, Stevie and family founded an annual celebration of her life and work, inviting everyone to take part in a variety of ways, from drawing the symbol on your hand or cheek, to ordering buttons and T-shirts from the website, or simply changing your social media profile pictures to the logo for the day.

To quote 3E Love: "Friends, tell the world you embrace who you are; a person with social rights, who has an opinion, who has interests, who has goals and who loves life; a person who is empowered to make a difference in the world and not be without a voice in society. You are not living disabled, you are living." Source: <https://www.day-softheyear.com/days/day-of-acceptance/>. □

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Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

Updating traditions

ORANJESTAD — If there is one thing I can think of a constant throughout my life has always been fireworks on December 31st. Two days after Christmas the firework shops open and sell as much as they can until the 31st. While individuals spend a good chunk of money on their personal fireworks, the kings have got to be companies in order to close out their year. At 12pm on the last work day of the year every company sets off their "pagara" to signify the end of the old year and welcome in a new one.



Over the last few years however this and many other practices have been looked at from the perspective of their potential hazard to the environment. Climate change is something that a lot of vacation destinations, including Aruba, are actively fighting against. In order to protect our wildlife, beaches and coral the government of Aruba has put in place bans on all single use foam and plastics along with banning certain types of sunblock. A measure that was met with full support island wide and made reusable shopping bags the ultimate gift to get once the rules went into effect. The government is trying if a little misguided, I mean we may have stopped using single use plastic straws, cups and plates, but go into every supermarket and take note of how many products you take home that are still in plastic.

It's a good effort, but still has a lot of room to grow. In the same way the government is encouraging citizens to do their part to protect our local flora and fauna, so are hotels. Our businesses contribute quite a bit to the overall carbon footprint, but we are trying to do our part. Most hotels have green initiatives or goals to reduce their negative impact. We make reusable shopping bags available, place more water coolers with bottle fillers to encourage using a bottle instead of a cup. Others have solar panels or electric company cars. We use local plants, which require less watering, in our landscaping. During off property company events carpooling is encouraged or a bus is hired to transport employees to reduce the amount of cars on

the road. These are all small steps in the right direction. One thing I never thought I'd see come to an end however, was the end of the year "pagara", but this last year nine hotels that usually do this all decided not to participate in the tradition this year. It caused a stir among employees, especially those of a more superstitious nature, but once explained the reasons why this practice was being stopped, just like the plastic bag ban it gained quick acceptance. The best thing to come out of all this is that the money saved on the fireworks was donated to various nonprofits, who are focused on protecting Aruba's coral reefs and conserving our local wildlife. In the meantime we have an entire year to discover and plan for more environmentally friendly celebrations. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

SPORTS



San Antonio Spurs' DeMar DeRozan, right, drives against Miami Heat's Derrick Jones, Jr. during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

Aldridge, DeRozan help Spurs escape to beat Heat 107-102

RAUL DOMINGUEZ
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Patty Mills celebrated his heritage Sunday with a performance that typified his career.

Mills provided a late spark, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 21 points and the San Antonio Spurs held off the Miami Heat 107-102 Sunday. The win came as San Antonio became the first NBA team to hold Indigenous People Night — a meaningful cause to Mills, who is an Australian of aboriginal descent.

"It's an important night and it's really important to Patty," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "For the indigenous people here in Texas it's important to all of us, but it's sort of double for him because of his history and his background."

Continued on Page 22



BOWLED OVER

Chiefs shut down Titans in AFC title game

Kansas City Chiefs' Tyreek Hill catches a touchdown pass in front of Tennessee Titans' Logan Ryan during the first half of the NFL AFC Championship football game Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Kansas City, MO.

Associated Press
Page 20

Rust, Johnson help Pittsburgh rally past Bruins 4-3

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jack Johnson's goal into his own net was one of the low points of a forgettable first period for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Johnson's short-handed slap shot later in the game helped the Penguins complete another memorable comeback.

Johnson and Bryan Rust scored third-period goals as Pittsburgh rallied to defeat the Boston Bruins 4-3 on Sunday. Pittsburgh came back from a three-goal deficit for the third time this season. It's the second time in franchise history — 2008-09 was the first — that the Penguins have had three three-goal comebacks in a season.

"Getting down 3-0 isn't what we had in mind," Johnson said. "We've been able to come back before, but that's not a recipe for success."

Dominik Simon and Teddy Blueger also scored for the Penguins, who have won six of their last seven games. Sidney Crosby has points in four straight games since returning from core muscle surgery. Crosby, who had two assists on Sunday, has three goals and eight points after missing the previous 28 games.

Matt Murray rebounded from a shaky start to make 34 saves for Pittsburgh. Murray, who won his fifth straight game, made consecutive starts for the first time since November.

"We didn't say a whole lot," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said of his team's poor start. "I just didn't feel it was necessary to state the obvious that we didn't have the start that we wanted. I did say that we had a lot of hockey left and we had to respond the right way."

David Pastrnak scored his 37th goal, and Patrice Bergeron scored his 21st and Anders Bjork his eighth for Boston. Jaroslav Halak made 18 saves for the Bruins, who are winless in their last six visits to Pittsburgh. Pastrnak has 11 goals and 24 points in his last 17 games. He's the first Bruins player with 70 points in 50 or fewer games since Cam

Neely and Adam Oates in 1993-94.

Pastrnak gave the Bruins a 3-0 lead at 15:07 of the first period, when he sent the puck to the front of the net, and it went in off Johnson's stick.

"It's a 3-0 lead and there's a lot of game left, so you have to play the right way and keep pushing to keep increasing that lead," Bergeron said. "I don't think it's a matter of effort. I think it's a matter of us being smart."

It was just the second time since 2010-11 that the Bruins lost in regulation after leading by three or more goals. Boston was 200-1-6 in that scenario, with the lone loss coming April 4, 2011, when the Bruins scored the first three goals before the



Pittsburgh Penguins' Jack Johnson shoots and scores a tying goal against the Boston Bruins during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

New York Rangers scored the next five unanswered. Johnson tied this game at 3 with a short-handed goal 1:41 into the third. He beat Halak to the blocker side

with a slap shot from the top of the circle.

Rust gave Pittsburgh a 4-3 lead when he scored his 21st goal of the season at 12:35 of the third. Evgeni

Malkin's pass from behind the net set up Rust in the slot. "I was just trying to get into the slot and be ready for it, and (Malkin) put it right on my tape," Rust said. The two teams met for the second time in four days. The Bruins won the first two games of the season series, both in Boston. Pittsburgh scored 24 seconds into the game on Thursday, but the Bruins responded with four straight goals.

Boston scored twice in the first 2:02 on Sunday.

Bergeron scored 11 seconds in, 3 seconds shy of the fastest goal to open a regular-season game by a Bruins player. Bjork netted the Bruins' second goal when he beat Murray with a glove-side wrist shot from the slot. □

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Mahomes' feet, arms, lift Chiefs to Super Bowl over Titans

By **BARRY WILNER**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)

— Arrowhead Stadium rocked to Whitney Houston's "I Want To Dance With Somebody." Kansas City fans' half-century wait to boogie in the Super Bowl is over — in great part due to their quarterback's magical feet, not to mention his majestic arm.

With his best imitation of a tightrope walker, Patrick Mahomes high-wired the Chiefs into their first Super Bowl since 1970.

Oh sure, Mahomes did his usual superb job passing, but it was his 27-yard tap dance down the left sideline late in the first half that gave the Chiefs their first lead. From there, they outran the run-oriented Titans and star back Derrick Henry for a 35-24 victory Sunday in the AFC championship.

At last, for the third time overall, the Chiefs (14-4) are Super Bowl bound.

In two weeks in Miami, they will play the winner of the NFC title game between Green Bay and San Francisco.

"I mean, it's amazing. It really is," Mahomes said. "To be here, to be a part of Chiefs Kingdom and to be able to do it here at Arrowhead, these people deserve it. And, we're not done yet." Adding to the joy of the achievement, coach Andy Reid and owner Clark Hunt accepted the Lamar Hunt Trophy — named after his father — emblematic of the AFC title. It was handed over to them by Chiefs Hall of Famer Bobby Bell, with Mahomes and safety Tyrann Mathieu jumping for joy on the makeshift stage. Next up: chasing the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

"Chiefs Kingdom, we are going to the Super Bowl," Hunt said.

The Chiefs lost in 1967 in the first AFL-NFL Championship Game — nope, it wasn't called the Super Bowl yet — to the Lombardi Packers 35-10. Three years later, one year after the New York Jets shocked Baltimore to lay claim to the AFL being equal to the long-established NFL, Kansas City was back. This time,



Kansas City Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes (15) runs for a touchdown during the first half of the NFL AFC Championship football game against the Tennessee Titans Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Kansas City, MO.

Associated Press

it was known as the Super Bowl — indeed, Lamar Hunt is credited with coming up with the name — and his Chiefs hammered Minnesota 23-7 with the typical Wild West offensive flair and a staunch defense. Those are characteristics that helped carry KC this season.

Reid isn't as animated as Hall of Famer Hank Stram, who famously urged the Chiefs team to "keep matriculating the ball down the field, boys." Caught up in the moment Sunday, Reid said, "It's awesome," before asking the crowd to chant "How about those Chiefs?"

Moments later, standout tight end Travis Kelce proclaimed, "You gotta fight for your right to party."

There will be plenty of partying on South Beach for Chiefs Kingdom heading into the championship matchup.

"Fired up to go to Miami, got to get on a diet so I can fit into my clothes," Reid said. "Very proud."

As they had done in their past three "elimination" games, the sixth-seeded Titans (11-8) got started quickly. The difference at Arrowhead as opposed to Houston, New England and Baltimore was that

the Chiefs had Mahomes, Tyreek Hill, Sammy Watkins and Damien Williams on offense, and a vastly upgraded defense from when they lost in last year's AFC title game. Henry was held to 7 yards rushing in the second half.

"They were doubling all these guys," Mahomes said of his spectacular TD run on which he barely stayed in bounds. "I just ran it and got some good blocking at the end and found a way to get in the end zone."

A week after they overcame a 24-0 deficit against Houston, the Chiefs had to rally again.

Down 10-0 and 17-7, Kansas City didn't flinch, building a 35-17 lead while controlling the clock with a strong ground game. Naturally, Mahomes complemented that with sharp passing, spreading the ball on short and deep throws. The dagger came with a 60-yard completion to Watkins for the Chiefs' 28th straight point midway in the final period.

Mahomes thrust both arms in the air as the crowd sang "I Want To Dance With Somebody."

That somebody will be either the 49ers or Packers in two weeks. They were de-

terminating the NFC crown later Sunday in California.

After taking a 3-0 lead on Greg Joseph's first field goal — with Tennessee's penchant for scoring in the red zone, he hadn't been called upon in his previous four games with the team — the Titans got a huge break. Bashaud Breeland appeared to make a diving interception, but replay review showed the ball hitting the ground.

Helped by consecutive offside penalties and a fourth-down pass to Adam Humphries for his first career playoff reception, the Titans converted on, what else, Henry's 4-yard run.

Then the Chiefs got rolling, scoring on three successive series. Hill took it in on a shovel pass, later beat top Titans cornerback Logan Ryan for a 20-yard reception, and Mahomes finished the half with his brilliant jaunt down the left sideline with half the Tennessee defense seemingly expecting him to step out of bounds. That gave the Chiefs a 21-17 lead. It went to 28-17 on Williams' 3-yard run to cap a seven-minute drive. Then Watkins toasted Logan for the clinching long pass.

Henry was held to 69 yards on 19 carries after rushing

for 588 yards in the past three games as an unstoppable force.

"That's what we were able to do coming in," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said of his team's running game entering the AFC title game.

"We weren't (able to do that against KC). I felt we competed all the way there until the end. ... You don't prepare these types of speeches to talk to the team about at the end of the season or to talk to you guys (reporters) about the end of the season. That's where we're at."

The Chiefs easily outrushed the Titans on Sunday. Mahomes led the way with 53 of those yards and also was 23 for 35 for 294 yards passing.

REID'S RETURN

Reid goes back to the Super Bowl for the first time since the 2004 season, when his Eagles lost to New England. That gap is second longest to Dick Vermeil's hiatus.

TRICKERY

Last week, Henry threw a jump pass for a touchdown against Baltimore. On Sunday, Dennis Kelly emulated his coach, Mike Vrabel. He sneaked free for Ryan Tannehill's lob, falling back awkwardly but holding on for Tennessee's second TD. The backup tackle is the only offensive lineman since 2000 with two TDs receiving in a season. He also had one against Jacksonville.

Vrabel caught 12 touchdown passes as a linebacker, including one in the Super Bowl when his Patriots beat Reid's Eagles.

FOURTH DOWNS

Displaying the gambling nature of both coaches, fourth-down conversions were key on early scoring drives. Humphries, who missed the last six games with an ankle problem, caught a 3-yarder on fourth-and-2 at the KC 29. Two plays later, Henry scored.

On the Chiefs' ensuing possession, they went on fourth-and-2 from the Titans 28. Travis Kelce's 4-yard reception continued a march to Hill's first TD. □



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Andrew Landry regrouped to win The American Express

By JOHN NICHOLSON
AP Sports Writer

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) — Andrew Landry regrouped to win The American Express after blowing a six-stroke lead on the back nine Sunday.

Landry broke a tie with Abraham Ancer with a 7-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole — the jagged rock-ringed, island-green par 3 called Alcatraz — and made a 6-footer on the par-4 18th for a 5-under 67 and a two-stroke victory. "That was probably the shot of the tournament for me," Landry said about the 17th. "Just to be able to go over there and, to that right hole location, and just hold one up and hit a good distance and have a 7-, 8-footer to look at. ... Thankfully, it went in and kind of made 18 a little bit easier."

The 32-year-old Texan won the pro-am event at PGA West two years after losing a playoff to Jon Rahm.

"This is a golf course that has suited me very well in the past," Landry said. "And just to look back on some of the things that happened a couple years ago and then now, just to be able to finally get it done. I didn't want to have to go back into a playoff again and we're running out of daylight, so it's good to finally get the job done again."

The former University of Arkansas player has two PGA Tour victories, also winning the 2018 Texas Open. He won Sunday after missing seven of eight cuts to start the season.

"That's why you just got to keep grinding it out," Landry said. "We all search for these weeks, and the majority of players out here are going to have them, four, five, six times a year and top-10 players are going to have them a little bit



Andrew Landry reacts after a birdie putt on the 18th hole to win The American Express golf tournament on the Stadium Course at PGA West in La Quinta, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

Associated Press

more often. So, these are the weeks that we search for and we just continue to just play our ball and keep doing what we do, and hopefully they come sooner than later."

Trying to become the third Mexican winner in PGA Tour history and first since 1978, Ancer matched the Stadium Course record with a 63.

"All week, really, I hit the ball great off the tee and iron shots, and in the first

three rounds, I feel like I didn't score as low as I should have for how good I hit the ball," Ancer said. "But stayed patient and today the putts started to fall in." Playing two groups ahead of Landry, Ancer birdied No. 16 and 17 and parred the 18th, missing from 35 feet and saving par with a 4 1/2-footer.

He realized he was tied for lead just before teeing off on 17.

"I wasn't paying much

attention to the leaderboard," Ancer said. "And then that's when I noticed and I was like, 'All right, well, we got to make two other birdies.' I made the putt there on 17, which was big, and then just couldn't make it happen on 18. But I played good, man. I'm proud of how I played."

Landry appeared to be cruising to victory when he birdied the first three holes on the back nine to open the six-shot lead. He bo-

geyed the next three holes, made a par on the par-5 16th that felt like another bogey, and was tied when Ancer ran in a 25-footer on 17.

"Just kind of calmed myself down and said, 'Hey, look, these are two holes that we can go out and get, they suit my game very well, especially 18,'" Landry said.

Landry finished at 26-under 262. He opened with a 66 on the Stadium Course, shot 64 in the second round at La Quinta Country Club and had a 65 on Saturday on PGA West's Jack Nicklaus Tournament Course for a share of the third-round lead with Scottie Scheffler — four strokes ahead of third-place Rickie Fowler.

The anticipated duel between Landry and Scheffler fizzled early.

Scheffler bogeyed the par-4 first after his drive went left and rolled back down a hill into a large divot. He also dropped strokes on the par-5 fifth and long par-3 sixth to fall four strokes behind Landry. On the water-guarded fifth, his aggressive play with a fairway wood from a downhill lie near a right-side bunker went well left and, after a long chip, he missed a 3-footer for par.

Scheffler shot 70, briefly giving Landry a scare with an eagle on 16, to finish third at 23 under. The 23-year-old former University of Texas player is in his first season on the PGA Tour after winning twice and topping the Korn Ferry Tour Finals and overall points lists last season.

Bud Cauley (65) and Sepp Straka (66) tied for fourth at 20 under. Fowler had a 71 in the final group with Landry and Scheffler to tie for 10th at 18 under. From nearby Murrietta, Fowler played the event for the first time in six years. □

Noël wins World Cup slalom; Kristoffersen leads overall

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**
AP Sports Writer

WENGEN, Switzerland (AP)

— Clément Noël skied through steadily falling snow to protect his first-run lead and win a World Cup slalom on Sunday.

Noël was only 17th fastest down the second gate-setting yet stayed 0.40 seconds ahead of Henrik Kristoffersen, who retook the overall World Cup standings lead.

Alexander Khoroshilov's fast second run lifted him to finish third, 0.83 behind Noël, for the 35-year-old Russian's best result in almost three years.

Fourth-fastest in the morning run, Alexis Pinturault straddled a gate when poised to set the fastest time and gave up top spot in the season-long overall points chase to Kristoffersen.

There will be a new overall champion this year after

Marcel Hirscher, Kristoffersen's biggest rival in recent seasons, ended his career after eight straight titles.

"I really don't care about the points at the moment," said the Norwegian racer, who has been runner-up in three of his past four races. "I would like to win instead of being second, but second is not bad today."

Kristoffersen also leads the slalom discipline standings from Noël, who rose above Daniel Yule. The Swiss racer tied for fifth Sunday, 0.90 back, after back-to-back wins in World Cup slaloms.

Noël has learned to peak in January which is the busiest time in the slalom calendar. The 22-year-old Frenchman's fifth career World Cup win was his fourth in January, including at Wengen last year. Six of his eight World Cup podium finishes have been in January.

"It's the most important time of the year for slalom and



France's Clément Noël speeds down the course on his way to win an alpine ski, men's World Cup slalom in Wengen, Switzerland, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

Associated Press

they are the most beautiful races of the season," said Noël, who next races at storied Kitzbuehel, Austria. "When you are confident and in shape, anything is possible in January."

Noël's victory was built on taking advantage of wearing start bib No. 1 in the first run set by a France team coach.

Getting first use of a smooth

race surface he was two-thirds of a second faster than Kristoffersen.

Racers reported snow conditions much softer and different to the icy tracks Yule won on at Madonna di Campiglio, Italy, and nearby Adelboden.

The Wengen slalom on a hill adjoining the storied Lauberhorn downhill course had been cleared of a

heavy snow covering that fell through the night until Saturday morning.

More snow arrived at lunchtime Sunday, falling first on the top half of the course and then on the entire track by the time Noël started. Course workers scraped snow away from the racing line trying to keep the surface consistent. □

Continued from Page 18

"He didn't play like he did because of that; he does that every night. His energy has been there his whole career. It's who he is."

Mills had 18 points and DeMar DeRozan added 20 as San Antonio snapped a two-game skid.

Mills requested the Spurs honor his ancestry as well as those of Native Americans, and the franchise obliged on the eve of Martin Luther King Day.

"Besides basketball, it was a win for us to be able to use basketball as a platform to be able to share culture and traditions and you saw it tonight," Mills said.

Miami's Duncan Robinson missed a 3-pointer with 10.2 seconds left and the Heat trailing 105-102. Miami fouled Marco Belinelli, who made both free throws to cap the scoring.

"It's a big moment," Robinson said. "I want to make that shot for this team. I didn't do it. I'm disappointed in myself, but it's nice to know these guys have my

back no matter what."

Bam Adebayo had 21 points, 16 rebounds and six assists for Miami, which had won its previous two games. Goran Dragic added 19 points and Kendrick Nunn had 18.

"I actually liked the way we competed," said Heat forward Jimmy Butler, who had 16 points.

The Spurs rebounded — barely — after blowing a 14-point lead in the fourth quarter against Atlanta in a 121-120 defeat Friday.

"We fresh off a feeling of letting a game slip away from us," DeRozan said. "Being right back in that position, just kind of understanding how hard we needed to play down the stretch, how hard it was going to be."

Mills fueled a late run by diving out of bounds and throwing the ball off Miami center Meyers Leonard to salvage an offensive possession. With cheers of "Patty, Patty," still ringing throughout the AT&T Center, Aldridge drained a hook shot to pull the Spurs



San Antonio Spurs' Patty Mills celebrates a basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

within 98-97 with 4:39 remaining.

A few possessions later, Derrick White used a backhanded stab to deflect and steal an attempted entry pass at the top of the key by Adebayo. That led to a three-point play by Aldridge for a 102-98 lead with 3:20 remaining.

"It was a big play," White said. "I was just trying to be active, get my hands on the ball and make a play."

TIP-INS

Heat: G Tyler Herro missed the game with a bruised left knee. ... F James Johnson was limited to five points in 15 minutes after helping Miami win for just the fourth time ever in San Antonio last season. Johnson had 13 points, five rebounds, four assists and two steals in the Heat's 110-105 victory March 20, 2019. ... Leonard was the only starter not to score in double figures, but

he had six rebounds and two assists and was a plus-7 on the court along with five points.

Spurs: Rudy Gay missed his second straight game with an undisclosed illness. ... Mills is the 110th player in league history with 1,000 3-pointers and just the 18th second-round pick to do so.

NATIVE

Mills is just the third indigenous player to compete for Australia in the Olympics. He has been active in assisting his homeland throughout his NBA career, especially with the country ravaged recently by brush fires.

His work with the indigenous people of Australia led him to become active with the Native American population in Texas.

"He's just a caring individual," Popovich said of Mills. "He cares about people, this was something that fit perfectly for him and his interests that's why he carried through with it and tried to bring attention to it." □

Conor McGregor holds all the UFC cards after comeback win

LAS VEGAS (AP) — After three years without a victory, Conor McGregor needed only 40 seconds to reclaim his place at the center of the mixed martial arts world.

McGregor's dynamic stoppage of Donald Cerrone in UFC 246 on Saturday night put the Irish superstar firmly in control of the future of two UFC divisions.

Every elite lightweight and welterweight will practically beg for his shot against a fighter who still commands the world's attention like nobody else. A refocused McGregor seems eager to make up for lost time after three years of inactivity and outside-the-cage misbehavior, suggesting he could fight three more times this year.

"The whole world lights up when I fight," McGregor said. "So I want to get back out there again."

He hadn't made a decision by the time he left T-Mobile Arena late Saturday night with a broad smile on his face and a bottle of his own branded whiskey in hand. McGregor plans to speak with UFC President Dana White and billionaire ex-UFC owner Lorenzo Fertitta before he decides whether to pursue a championship belt, a revenge fight, an absurdly lucrative boxing match or any combination of the three.

The contenders already are lining up.

Popular welterweight brawler Jorge Masvidal would welcome a showdown, while welterweight champion Kamaru Usman would love to defend his title against McGregor. Both fighters watched McGregor's victory from cage-side, and Masvidal even

tried to goad McGregor in curious fashion by wearing the same Versace robe that McGregor famously wore a few years ago to an open workout.

Lightweight contender Justin Gaethje fights in a reckless, crowd-pleasing style guaranteed to make a compelling matchup for the similarly aggressive McGregor. Another must-see bout would be a third fight with imperious veteran Nate Diaz, who fought twice in 2019 after his own three-year break.

But White wants McGregor to wait for a fight against lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov, who beat McGregor in October 2018 and subsequently sparked an ugly brawl outside the cage. The bad feelings from that promotion haven't healed, and White believes the rematch could rival the profitability of McGregor's boxing match with Floyd Mayweather.

"With how Khabib won the first time and how famous Khabib has become, we're looking at Hagler-Hearns," White said. "We're looking at like Ali-Foreman, Ali-Frazier. This is a massive fight with global appeal. This is the fight that you make. This is the fight that makes sense."

But Nurmagomedov is booked to face Tony Ferguson at UFC 249 in April, and McGregor would prefer not to wait until late summer for his next bout. Instead, he half-seriously predicted the Nurmagomedov-Ferguson bout will be scrapped and he'll be forced to step in.

McGregor also could bide his time with another absurdly lucrative boxing match. While most fight



Conor McGregor, left, fights Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone during a UFC 246 welterweight mixed martial arts bout Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

fans scoff at this entire venture, the wider world still appears to be fascinated by these spectacles, as evidenced by the money made by McGregor and Mayweather in 2017 in one of the richest pay-per-view bouts in boxing history.

Mayweather turns 43 next month and has fought once since 2015, but he immediately posted a mocked-up advertisement for the rematch on his Instagram page Saturday night. McGregor ripped it because the graphic artist didn't include the logo for McGregor's promotional company. He jokingly suggested that slight means he'll instead fight Manny Pacquiao, who has also declared his interest in the payday that comes with giving a boxing lesson to McGregor.

"I certainly would love the rematch with Floyd," McGregor said. "It very well could happen this year. The one with Manny will also be

there whenever. ... Floyd is going through money fast. He is far from retired. That rematch will happen."

Before he beat Cerrone, McGregor suggested he could fight again at UFC 248 on March 7 if he didn't take too much punishment. Cerrone failed to land a single strike, so McGregor came out totally unscathed — but it could still take a bit longer than seven weeks to sort out his next step.

At least the first simultaneous two-division champion in UFC history appears to be taking that next step with sure footing. The spotlight never left McGregor, but he didn't seem capable of meeting its demands in recent years.

"I'd achieved it all, right?" McGregor said. "I broke the game before I was 30 years of age. One belt became not enough. I achieved it all. (Coach) John (Kavanaugh) says it's the worst nightmare for a coach if a stu-

dent achieves it all. I probably had to go through all that and then just come back for the love."

McGregor was still the biggest star in the game even while he lost both of his UFC belts, dabbled in boxing and focused on whiskey, both as a successful distiller and an eager consumer.

McGregor and Nurmagomedov then engaged in a dark, ugly promotion of their first bout. Away from the cameras, McGregor was training erratically and enjoying too much of the good life created by his stardom.

He says he escaped that cloud late last year, and McGregor believes his performance against Cerrone showed the way to even brighter days if he can stay on this path.

"I love that whiskey, but you've got to respect it," McGregor said. "You've got to respect that liquid, because if you don't, it will come and get you." □

Kyle Larson finally wins elusive Chili Bowl in 13th try

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Kyle Larson scored one of the biggest victories of his career by ending an 0-for-12 streak to finally win the Chili Bowl Midget Nationals. Larson passed Christopher Bell with 17 laps in Saturday night's main event to

end his frustrating streak of futility and deny Bell a fourth consecutive win in the prestigious dirt race. Bell passed Larson on the final lap of last year's Chili Bowl to hand the NASCAR star a crushing defeat.

"It's a pretty different range

of emotions 365 days later," Larson said on the MavTV broadcast. "I feel like I'm going to pass out. I'm sorry NASCAR, I'm sorry Daytona, but this is the biggest (expletive) race I've ever won. I hope to win Daytona in a few weeks

but this is bad (expletive)." Larson collected the coveted Golden Driller trophy and the 27-year-old, still smarting a bloodshot eye from a nasty crash in New Zealand last month, seemed in disbelief "It's taken me 13 years.

That's almost half my age," Larson said. "I've been coming here for 13 years, and it feels better than I can imagine." Bell, who moves full-time in NASCAR this year to the Cup Series, was second and Cannon McIntosh was third. □

AP Explains: The Justice Department's new quarrel with Apple

By **MARCY GORDON**
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The deadly shooting of three U.S. sailors at a Navy installation in December could reignite a long-simmering fight between the federal government and tech companies over data privacy and encryption.

As part of its probe into the violent incident, deemed a terrorist act by the government, the Justice Department insists that investigators need access to data from two locked and encrypted iPhones that belonged to the alleged gunman, a Saudi aviation student. The problem: Apple designed those iPhones with encryption technology so secure that the company itself can't read private messages.

The squabble raises two big questions. First, is Apple required to help the government hack its own security technology when requested? Second, is government pressure on this issue the prelude for a broader effort to outlaw encryption technology the feds can't break?

THE QUARREL SO FAR

The Justice Department and Apple have been in talks recently over the Saudi student's iPhone. Justice officials contend that they still haven't received an answer about whether Apple has the capability to unlock the devices.

During a news conference Monday announcing the findings of the Pensacola station investigation, U.S. Attorney William Barr said it's critical for law enforcement to know with whom the shooter communicated and about what, before he died.

"So far, Apple has not given any substantive assistance," Barr said. "We call on Apple and other technology



In this Jan. 13, 2020, file photo Attorney General William Barr and FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich, second from left, address reporters at the Justice Department in Washington to announce results of an investigation of the shootings at the Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida.

Associated Press

companies to help us find a solution so that we can better protect the lives of the American people and prevent future attacks."

Apple rejected that characterization. "Our responses to their many requests since the attack have been timely, thorough and are ongoing," the company said.

TRYING THE BACKDOOR

Our phones hold countless messages, files and photos — tracings of our everyday life and work. But in 2013, the whistleblower Edward Snowden revealed the extent to which the government was spying on U.S. citizens. Tech companies like Apple and Google began taking steps to shield those digital tracings from prying eyes — though often not their own — by mathematically scrambling them with encryption.

Apple was one of the first major companies to embrace stronger "end-to-end" encryption, in which messages are scrambled so that only their senders and recipients can read them. Law enforcement,

however, wants access to that information in order to investigate crimes such as terrorism or child sexual exploitation.

Barr and other top cops call the problem "going dark," as data they used to be able to scoop up with wiretaps has become harder and harder to read. Although most law enforcement officials are vague about how to solve the problem, security experts say the authorities are basically asking for an engineered "backdoor" — a secret key that would let them decipher encrypted information with a court order. But the same experts warn that such backdoors make them inherently insecure. Just knowing that a backdoor exists is enough to focus the world's spies and criminals on discovering the mathematical keys that could unlock it. And when they do, everyone's information is essentially vulnerable to anyone with the secret key.

WHAT LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN DO

Forcing tech companies to engineer backdoors into their security systems would almost certainly require an act of Congress. Legislators, however, have never come close to agreeing on what such a law should look like.

But there are alternatives. Four years ago, the Justice Department took the extraordinary step of asking a federal judge to force Apple to break its own encryption system. The legal move involved an iPhone used by the perpetrator of a December 2015 mass shooting in San Bernardino, California.

Apple acknowledged that it could create the software the feds wanted, but warned that it would be a bad idea. The software could be stolen by hackers and used against other iPhones, the company warned, and might also lead to similar demands from repressive governments around the world.

The FBI ultimately dropped the case shortly before it was to go to trial, saying a "third party" had found another way of getting into the phone. It never disclosed who that party was; there is an entire industry of shadowy companies such as the Israeli firm Cellebrite that discover or pay for information on flaws in encryption systems. These firms then develop tools to

essentially create their own backdoors.

Such companies do significant business with governments and law enforcement. Companies like Apple, meanwhile, do their best to close such loopholes as soon as they learn about them.

WHERE THINGS STAND NOW

Apple is reportedly bracing for another possible legal fight over encryption with the Justice Department. So far, though, there's no clear sign that the government is headed that way.

"They're just public shaming and asking nicely," said Bruce Schneier, an encryption expert at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University. "Hurting everybody's security for some forensic evidence is a dumb tradeoff."

Barr said the growth of consumer apps with end-to-end encryption, from Apple's iMessage to Facebook's WhatsApp and Signal, have aided "terrorist organizations, drug cartels, child molesting rings and kiddie porn-type rings." But the government's legal options could be limited.

For one thing, DOJ's own inspector general slammed the department in the aftermath of the San Bernardino case, noting that it had made few attempts to break into the iPhone itself before filing suit. The FBI unit tasked with cracking phones had only sought outside help the day before the department asked a judge to compel Apple's assistance, the inspector general's report found.

The same report found that an FBI section chief knew an outside vendor had almost 90% completed a technique that would have allowed it to break into the phone, even as the Justice Department insisted that forcing Apple's help was the only option.

Civil liberties advocates have also protested. The American Civil Liberties Union called Barr's demands "dangerous and unconstitutional." "Here we are again," Schneier said. "It's stupid every time." □



Gun industry gathers amid slumping sales, rising tensions

By LISA MARIE PANE

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Gun companies are gathering for their annual conference and trade show this week in Las Vegas at a pivotal moment for the industry amid slumping sales, a public increasingly agitating for restrictions on access to firearms and escalating tensions over gun control efforts.

The event, held by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the gun industry's lobbying group, will take place in Las Vegas—about 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) from the deadliest mass shooting modern U.S. history. An estimated 60,000 people are expected to attend, navigating a vast expanse of aisles filled with not just firearms but all sorts of accessories and industry-related apparel.

Gun sales normally taper off during Republican administrations because gun owners are not as compelled to stockpile weapons out of fear that lawmakers will impose restrictions on firearms. But the past three years under President Donald Trump have been particularly volatile, fueled in part by the Las Vegas shooting and other high-profile mass killings that have driven efforts to either restrict access to guns or to ban certain firearms and products.

With Congress stymied by gridlock, the most notable action on guns has occurred at the state level in places such as Virginia, where Democrats took control of the statehouse in last year's elections. They are vowing to pass a slate of gun control measures, prompting thousands of pro-Second Amendment activists to plan a rally Monday at the Capitol.

Virginia is being closely watched by the industry, looking to see how it will play out and what it might portend for the future of gun politics in the year

ahead.

Sagging gun sales have afflicted almost every corner of the industry, most notably iconic gun manufacturers such as Ruger, Remington and Colt.

Colt, one of the most storied firearms companies in the U.S., decided to suspend production of its AR-15 long guns. Sturm, Ruger and Co. Inc. saw sales slump about 20% last year and has reduced its workforce and production. Remington emerged from bankruptcy in 2018, but remains under scrutiny after being sued by families of victims of the Sandy Hook school shooting in which the perpetrator used an AR-15 made by the company.

Ruger CEO Christopher J. Kilroy has said the company decided to forego steep discounts in its prices, a tactic some other manufacturers have used, to focus instead on scaling back production to weather the storm.

The pushback from the public, lawmakers and the retail sector has been most intense against AR-style guns that have been used in several recent mass killings, including Las Vegas, the Orlando nightclub massacre and the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. That has placed gun manufacturers in a difficult position because the popularity of those weapons has fueled their profits in recent years. It's not just gunmakers that have booths at the Las Vegas show.

It's a wide array — from companies that make holsters, scopes, ammunition and safes to apparel and even coffee brewers. It caters to the spectrum of gun owners — from hunters to those in the military and law enforcement. Firearms on display at the event are inoperable and none are actually sold at it.

There is a panel discussion on how to use social media influencers to boost sales, a golf tournament to raise



In this Jan. 19, 2016, file photo, handguns are displayed at the Smith & Wesson booth at the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

money for veterans and a "day at the range" where participants can check out and fire all sorts of guns. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt is among the keynote speakers.

Gary Ramey, the owner of a small handgun company based in Gainesville, Georgia, said his company has seen drops in sales in the past year, and the Las Vegas gathering will be especially critical to see new products and meet suppliers.

"We've been busy just trying to keep our head above water in this tough market. It's been difficult," he said. He added later: "Our Second Amendment rights have never been under more scrutiny or attack than they are now."

Ramey has been going to the event for 20 years, well before he founded Honor Defense, a company that specializes on handguns that can be purchased with custom colors and designs. His is primarily a family

run business that uses only American built parts.

Bryan Haaker, who co-founded a gun parts and accessories company in New Hampshire in 2012, has weathered the recent turmoil by finding growth in smaller caliber firearms and the competitive shooting arena. He will be at the Las Vegas convention as well.

"We've seen nothing but the market grow," Haaker said. □

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Mutts



1-20

Ugh! ANOTHER MONDAY?

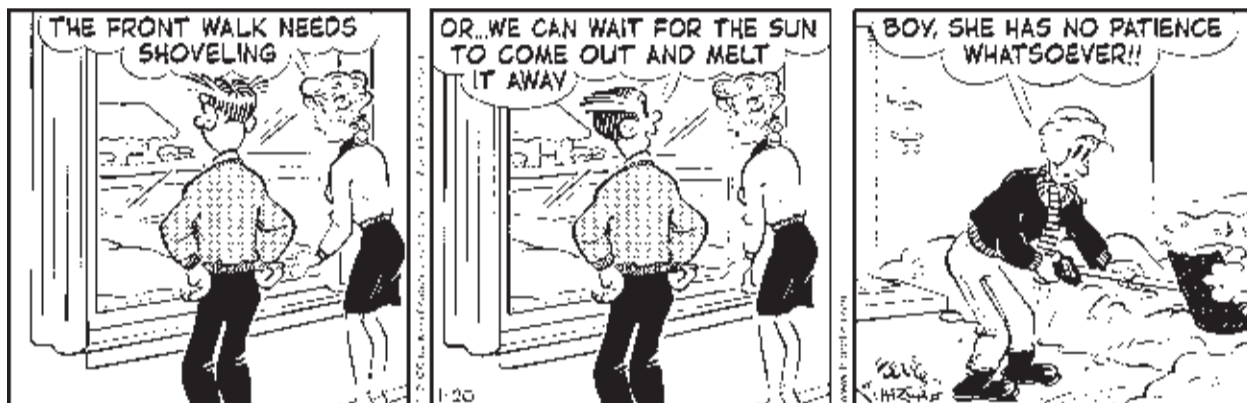
Didn't we JUST have one
LAST WEEK!?!

mutts.com

6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3		7				1		
	5	2		8		9		7 5
		7		2		9		1
4	8		9		6	3		
9				1			8	2
8	1		2		6			
	7				5			3

Difficulty Level ★

1-20

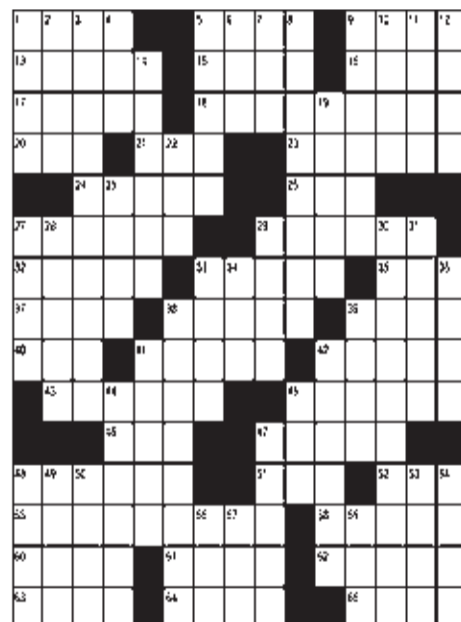
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

4	1	9	3	8	5	7	2	6
5	6	2	9	1	7	8	4	3
8	7	3	2	6	4	1	5	9
3	4	1	5	9	6	2	8	7
6	8	7	4	2	1	9	3	5
9	2	5	8	7	3	6	1	4
2	5	8	6	4	9	3	7	1
1	3	6	7	5	8	4	9	2
7	9	4	1	3	2	5	6	8

ACROSS

- 1 Run away
- 5 Woes
- 9 Bear it
- 13 a job gets nixed
- 15 Throw in a sudden y confused
- 16 In one's birthday suit
- 17 Uneasy feeling
- 18 Pakistan's capitol
- 20 Arthur of Maude
- 21 Battery size
- 23 Combsanes
- 24 Wake sausage
- 26 Dr. Dre's music
- 27 Dismal
- 29 Abnormal tissue growths
- 32 Skateboarder's nines
- 33 Tarrons
- 35 Common street name
- 37 Law & Order SVU actor
- 38 Housekeepers
- 39 Cheese similar to Camembert
- 40 Bio product
- 41 Office cabinet contents
- 42 Secure storage boxes
- 43 Deays purposely
- 45 Roadside red carpet for
- 45 Kawai accessory
- 47 Lunch spot
- 48 Pad of paper
- 51 "Lazy River"
- 52 As cucurbit
- 55 Far west
- 58 "obnoxious" potato fries
- 60 Drink in
- 61 Tack
- 62 State Farm employee
- 63 Potato chip brand
- 64 Little boys
- 65 on favorite: likely winner



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

1/22/20

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

PAR	PAWNS	SLAW
EXAM	AHOOT	TUNA
PERU	RENTA	IRON
SEPARATES	NEXT	
PLOD	HAG	
ACCEPT	SCISSORS	
MALTS	GHANA	CEE
PROS	BEING	SCAN
LES PANES	FEUDS	
EYELINER	COARSE	
AND	TEAL	
CLAM	APPEALING	
ROPE	NOONS	NINA
OPEN	NOOSE	GNAT
PEST	ARLES	OWE

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1/20/20

DOWN

- 1 Spare tire
- 2 Highway divider
- 3 Reason to buy a ring
- 4 Asner & O'Neil
- 5 Epic about Achilles
- 6 Alamos, NM
- 7 He-he alternative
- 8 Small songbirds
- 9 Make a request for haste
- 10 Castro's nation
- 11 Queen for old TV
- 12 Kennedy & Turner
- 14 Escalator alternative
- 19 Repairs
- 22 Words attached to body of way
- 25 Encroached
- 27 Faucet problem
- 28 Marathons
- 29 Upholstery supplies
- 30 Punctured
- 31 More devout
- 33 Coolidge's namesakes
- 34 Commitment ring
- 36 Disarray
- 36 Comitative aggressive
- 39 Source of misery
- 41 Armada
- 42 Piano piece
- 44 Axis foes
- 45 Trendy stylish
- 47 Sword fights
- 48 on: reveal the misdeeds of
- 49 Filled swimming pool's color
- 50 Inter or forward
- 54 Carney & Gartunkle
- 56 Cry from the 'hood
- 57 Eye's protector
- 59 Not long recent'y

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 2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K

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 2 BR Ocean Side \$16,5 K
 2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K
 3 Br Ocean View \$ 28 K
 Platinum Plus \$45 K
 2 BR WK 7 Ocean View

Aruba Divi Phoenix
 1 BR WK 2 \$17 K
 Building 8 Ground floor
 32 weeks remain
 1 BR WK 8 \$16 K
 building 6 on the 4th floor
 27 weeks remain

Aruba Divi Phoenix
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 14 th floor 32/22 weeks remain
 1 BR WK 11
 on the 7 th floor
 33 weeks remain \$15 K

Divi Links Golf
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 All 3 weeks together \$30 K
 Divi Links Golf
 Studio wk 2 \$7,5 K

Eagle 3 with 23 weeks remain
 1 BR WK 3 \$8,5 K
 Eagle 3 with 23 weeks remain
 1 BR WK 8/9 \$9,5 K each
 Eagle 9 with 27/19 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf
 2 BR WK 3 \$ 20 K
 Eagle 8 with 25 weeks remain
 1 BR WK 4
 Birdie 2 on 2sd floor
 19 weeks remain \$8.5K
 Studio WK 6 \$7,5 K
 Building F 22 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf
 Studio WK 1 \$7,5 K
 building 4 with 28 weeks remain
 Studio Wk 5 , 7 and 8 \$ 8 K
 each
 Birdie 4 with 28/27/29 weeks remain

Divi Village
 1 BR WK 1 \$8,5 K
 Studio WK 1 \$7,5 K
 Building D & F
 25 weeks on each
 Studio WK 1 \$7,5 K
 Ground floor Building C
 33 weeks remain

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 5th floor garden view

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Downtown

Study: Spotted lanternfly costing Pennsylvania \$50M annually

By **MICHAEL RUBINKAM**
Associated Press

The spotted lanternfly, an invasive pest from Asia that is wreaking havoc on valuable trees and vines, is costing the Pennsylvania economy about \$50 million and eliminating nearly 500 jobs each year, according to a Penn State study released Thursday.

The study represents researchers' first attempt to quantify the destruction caused by the large, colorful planthopper. First detected in the U.S. in 2014, in Pennsylvania's Berks County, it has since overrun the state's southeastern corner and spread into nearby states including New Jersey, Delaware and Virginia. Economists in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences estimated the financial impact on industries most susceptible to spotted lanternfly, including nurseries, vineyards, Christmas tree growers and hardwood producers.

In the state's hard-hit southeast, spotted lanternfly imposes \$29 million in direct costs on growers and forest landowners, according to the study. Secondary costs,



This Sept. 19, 2019, file photo, shows a spotted lanternfly at a vineyard in Kutztown, Pa.

Associated Press

including reduced business and household spending, represent another \$21 million each year.

If the insect were to expand statewide, it could cause \$325 million in damage and wipe out 2,800 jobs, the researchers esti-

mate. The state's \$19 billion forest products industry would be especially vulnerable. Pennsylvania, with its vast unbroken stretches of forest, is the nation's No. 1 producer of hardwoods. "The part that we're really concerned about is what's

going on out in the forest. This thing is feeding on trees and those trees are worth a lot of money," said Jay Harper, a study co-author and director of Penn State's Fruit Research and Extension Center. "This is a call to arms," he

said. Spotted lanternfly is believed to weaken, though not necessarily kill, trees like maple, oak and black walnut. A greater economic threat than tree mortality is the prospect that states and nations could limit imports from Pennsylvania in an effort to prevent the bugs' spread, according to Wayne Bender, who leads the Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council, part of the state agriculture department. "The industry is taking it very seriously and has taken proactive ... measures to minimize the threat and movement of spotted lanternfly," he said.

Elsewhere, scientists have been testing chemical and biological methods of lanternfly control. Government contractors are removing tree of heaven — an invasive tree that is the lanternflies' preferred host — from public property. Pennsylvania has also established a quarantine meant to limit the bugs' spread.

The Penn State study was funded by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a legislative agency. □

'Amazing': New embryo made of nearly extinct rhino species



In this Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 file photo, female northern white rhinos Fatu, 19, right, and Najin, 30, left, the last two northern white rhinos on the planet, are fed some carrots by a ranger in their enclosure at Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Kenya.

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Researchers say they have successfully created another embryo of the nearly extinct northern white rhino in a global effort to keep the species alive. Just two animals remain, and both are female.

The viable embryo is just the third to be created in a lab with eggs taken from the females and inseminated with frozen sperm from dead males, according to Wednesday's statement. The embryos are stored in liquid nitrogen to be transferred into a surrogate mother — a southern white rhino — in the coming months.

"It's amazing to see that we will be able to reverse the tragic loss of this subspecies through science," said Kenya's wildlife minister, Najib Balala, in the statement by the Kenya Wildlife Service

and conservationists from Kenya, the Czech Republic, Germany and Italy.

The ultimate goal is to create a herd of at least five animals that could be returned to their natural habitat in Africa. That could take decades.

The two remaining female northern white rhinos, Najin and Fatu, are hosted by Kenya. The three viable embryos have been created with eggs from Fatu.

"Now the team will make every effort to achieve the same result for the 30-year-old Najin before it is too late for her," said Thomas Hildebrandt with the Leibniz Institute for Zoo & Wildlife Research in Germany.

The procedure has proven to be safe and can be performed regularly before the animals become too old, the new statement said.

The next step is to select fe-

male southern white rhinos among those at Kenya's Ol Pejeta Conservancy to serve as a surrogate mother, Kenya's wildlife minister said.

Decades of poaching have taken a heavy toll on rhino species. The animals are killed for their horns, which have long been used as carving material and prized in traditional Chinese medicine for their supposed healing properties.

The last male northern white rhino was a 45-year-old named Sudan, who gained fame in 2017 when he was listed as "The Most Eligible Bachelor in the World" on the Tinder dating app as part of a fundraising effort. Sudan, named for the country where he was born in the wild, was euthanized in 2018 because of age-related illness. □

Going primetime: "The Jump" serving as pregame for ABC games

By **JOE REEDY**
AP Sports Writer

ESPN has gone through many pairings and approaches trying to build a pregame show during its 18 seasons broadcasting the NBA. This time it's using a successful daily show.

The Rachel Nichols-led "The Jump" has been a daytime hit since debuting four years ago and is going primetime. It will lead off ABC's Saturday night package, which begins with the Los Angeles Lakers visiting the Houston Rockets.

"To get the trust of ESPN to do something like this feels good. It's not just me hosting pregame, but have the whole feeling and ethos of 'The Jump' from games," Nichols said.

Nichols often takes "The Jump" out of its Los Angeles studio for a big game or newsworthy event, including the NBA Finals. The biggest change is the show will be cut from 60 to 30 minutes, but even that is a throwback to its roots as a half-hour program on ESPN2.

Mike Shiffman, head of NBA production for ESPN, said the ability of the show to be nimble and adjust to breaking news was one of the biggest draws to giving it a new platform. The best example of that was on the first day of free agency when "The Jump" was on

for five hours.

"They had sort of a plan and then the news was taking it in another direction. It showed everyone's ability to be able to quickly put everything in context when the entire landscape of the league was shifting," he said.

"The Jump" built a steady following of fans and players, who watch it during the afternoon and see it as a way to connect either after practice or before games. Even before coming to ESPN for the first time in 2003, Nichols was well known for her contacts throughout the league with The Washington Post.

It also has given ESPN a show that can generate buzz akin to TNT's "Inside the NBA." Nichols left ESPN in 2013 and worked at CNN and TNT as an anchor and reporter for three years. She hosted her own show on CNN and got to see how things operate with their NBA coverage.

"Having gotten to learn from the inside has had us do that same thing sometimes on 'The Jump.' I learned so much from being around those guys on and off camera as well as the way they would let those discussions evolve," Nichols said.

One of the bigger differences with "The Jump" is that Nichols' mix of ana-



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, drives toward the basket as Orlando Magic guard Terrence Ross defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

lysts feature not only former players but journalists and former front office executives. Kendrick Perkins, who is part of the rotating casts of analysts, says the variety has been beneficial.

"The mix gives it a different feel during debates. As a former player I can agree to disagree with a former player or great journalists or people who have been around the league for a long time," he said.

Scottie Pippen and Paul Pierce have led teams to championships, Perkins had a solid career as a

team enforcer and Tracy McGrady was a two-time league scoring champion.

"We can bear down and discuss serious topics but we can also be goofy, silly and lean into the fun of the league," Nichols said. "The show is a real joy because it taps into my strengths. I have a track record of being a serious journalist and also being a goofball."

Nichols would like to have some Jump features make it to the pregame show, but also realizes being on the court live could create some other spontaneous

moments.

During a Christmas Day show before the Lakers-Clippers game, Dwight Howard started talking to Pippen while the show was going on, and LeBron James gave a shoutout to Michael B. Jordan when the actor was being interviewed.

ESPN is also hoping that ratings begin to rebound during the second half of the season. The network is averaging 1.5 million for its broadcasts, which is down 15% from last year due to a rash of injuries. □

Report: Hank Azaria to quit voicing Apu on 'The Simpsons'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hank Azaria says he has no plans to continue voicing the character of Apu on "The Simpsons," according to an industry blog. But that isn't to say the Indian immigrant convenience store owner Azaria brought alive for 30 years won't live on.

Producers and Fox Broadcasting Co. wouldn't confirm to The Associated Press Azaria's exit or an end to Apu, a recurring character that has drawn criticism for reinforcing racial stereotypes. There was no immediate reply Saturday from Azaria's publicist.

The actor, who is white, indicated Friday to slashfilm.

com that there was no resistance to phasing out his voice.

"We all made the decision together," Azaria said. "We all agreed on it. We all feel like it's the right thing and (feel) good about it."

Apu Nahasapeemapetilon runs the Kwik-E-Mart, a popular convenience store in the animated sitcom's Springfield. Apu is known for his catchphrase, "Thank you, come again." Azaria's first turn as Apu came in the first season's episode "The Telltale Head" in 1990.

Azaria speculated that among options going forward is transitioning Apu's voice to an Indian actor.



In this Jan. 16, 2020 file photo, Hank Azaria speaks during the AMC Networks TCA 2020 Winter Press Tour in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

In 2017, comedian Hari Kondabolu put out a documentary, "The Problem

with Apu," that examined the character's cultural impact. Asked in the film's af-

termath if he had watched the documentary, Azaria said:

"Thank you for asking me. Yes, of course, I did see it, and let me see if I can tell you how I feel about that. The idea that anybody, young or old, past or present, was bullied or teased or worse based on the character of Apu on 'The Simpsons,' the voice or any other tropes of the character is distressing," he said. "And especially in post-9/11 America, the idea that anybody was marginalized based on it or had a hard time was very upsetting to me personally and professionally." □



In this March 13, 2018, file photo, actress Oprah Winfrey poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film "A Wrinkle In Time" in London.

Associated Press

Winfrey details her decision to withdraw from Simmons film

NEW YORK (AP) — Oprah Winfrey said Friday that Russell Simmons attempted to pressure her about her involvement with a documentary in which several women detail sexual abuse allegations against the rap mogul, but his efforts were not what prompted her to leave the project.

"He did reach out multiple times and attempted to pressure me," Winfrey told The Associated Press through a spokesperson on Friday. It was not anything Simmons said that prompted Winfrey to withdraw from the "On the Record" film, according to Winfrey, but rather inconsistencies in the story of one of Simmons' accusers, Drew Dixon, that she felt needed to be addressed.

Winfrey said Friday that she still believes Dixon and other women in the film, but that more reporting was needed. "On the Record" directors Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering have said they have ample evidence against Simmons, a co-founder of Def Jam Recordings. Winfrey has said she wanted to delay the release of the film, scheduled to premiere Jan. 25 at the Sundance Film Festival, but that that view was not shared by the film's directors. "On the Record" had been part of her partnership with Apple, which no longer will distrib-

ute the documentary. Winfrey, who herself has spoken openly of been sexually abused, announced she was leaving as executive producer on Jan. 10, saying that more work was needed and that and the filmmakers were "not aligned" in their "creative vision." The film's producers, Impact Partners, said in a statement earlier this week that the movie was "ready for Sundance."

"We have always championed the voices of those who have been wrongly silenced. The women in this film have made a great sacrifice by coming forward to tell their stories in their own words. We are honored to support them," the Impact statement reads. "We stand firmly behind the work of the intrepid filmmakers who continue to break new ground by advancing important stories in the public interest." The AP does not typically name alleged victims of sexual abuse, but Dixon has told her story publicly, including on CBS This Morning earlier this week. The communications between Winfrey and Simmons and her concerns about Dixon's story were first reported by The New York Times.

Simmons has denied any wrongdoing. On Friday, a Simmons representative is-

sued a statement, saying "If defending himself against terrible accusations is considered intimidation then there would be no justice." Speaking to The Associated Press on Friday, Winfrey disputed allegations by the makers of "On the Record" that she gave them little warning before her Jan. 10 announcement. In a story which ran early Friday, Dick and Ziering told The Hollywood Reporter that they received just 20 minutes notice before Winfrey issued her statement.

"It was very disappointing and upsetting," Ziering told The Hollywood Reporter. "We were concerned about the survivors and what the hell this is going to do to them. That was our first thought. 'Oh my God. Let's tell everybody and figure this out.'"

Winfrey told the AP that Dick and Ziering knew well of her intentions. She said she had raised concerns last month about the film needing more work. According to Winfrey, she told Dick and Ziering that "new information" had made her see gaps she "thought needed to be filled" and that it was better to "take a rest."

"They said they would go on with or without me," Winfrey told the AP. She said the bottom line for her was that "The film isn't ready." □

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PH MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:35 | SAT-SUN 3:05 | 5:50 | 8:35

PBP **CXC** MON-THU 5:10 | 7:30 | FRI 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00 | SAT 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00 | SUN 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30

PBP **VIP** MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20 | SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

DOLITTLE

ROBERT DOWNEY JR. | ANTONIO BANDERAS

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-THU 5:50 | 8:15 | FRI 5:50 | 8:15 | 10:40 | SAT 3:25 | 5:50 | 8:15 | 10:40 | SUN 3:25 | 5:50 | 8:15

PBP MON-THU 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 10:00 | SAT 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 10:00 | SUN 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

PBP **S** SENSORY FRIENDLY PRESENTATION SATURDAY, JAN 18 AT 1:00PM

PBP MON-FRI 5:20 | 7:40 | SAT-SUN 3:00 | 5:20 | 7:40

UNDERWATER

KRISTEN STEWART | VINCENT CASSEL

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 6:05 | 8:20 | FRI 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35 | SAT 3:50 | 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35 | SUN 3:50 | 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35

PBP FRI-SAT 11:20

PBP **VIP** MON-FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | SAT-SUN 12:55 | 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

Like A Boss

ROSE BYRNE | TIFFANY HADDISH

PH MON-THU 6:05 | 8:10 | FRI 6:05 | 8:10 | 10:15 | SAT 1:55 | 4:00 | 6:05 | 8:10 | 10:15 | SUN 1:55 | 4:00 | 6:05 | 8:10

PBP MON-THU & SUN 9:20 | FRI-SAT 9:20 | 11:45

1917

DEAN-CHARLES CHAPMAN | GEORGE MACKAY

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

2 GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER BEST MOTION PICTURE - USA

10 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

PH MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:30 | SAT-SUN 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30

PBP MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:25 | 9:00 | SAT-SUN 1:15 | 3:50 | 6:25 | 9:00

JUMANJI THE NEXT LEVEL

DWAYNE JOHNSON | JACK BLACK

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10 | SAT-SUN 1:10 | 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10

SPIES IN DISGUISE

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Ahead of Oscars, Screen Actors Guild to hand out awards

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

Scarlett Johansson and Nicole Kidman will have two chances to win Sunday night at the 26th Screen Actors Guild Awards, but the award show's ability to forecast the Oscars looks cloudy.

Among the films vying for the screen actors' top honor, best ensemble, are Oscar heavyweights "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" and "The Irishman." They are competing with "Parasite" (only the second

foreign language nominee after "Life Is Beautiful," which received a nod in 1999), "Jojo Rabbit" and "Bombshell." Because actors make up the largest percentage of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, their picks are closely watched. But the last two years, the SAG ensemble winner has not gone on to win best picture: "Black Panther" last year and "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" in 2018. Two of this year's top best-picture contenders at

the Oscars — "Joker," more of a one-man show, and "1917," more acclaimed for its technical acumen — weren't nominated for best ensemble. On Saturday, "1917" won top honors at the highly predictive Producers Guild Awards, which 21 of the last 30 years has lined up with the eventual best picture winner. The Screen Actors Guild Awards will begin at 8 p.m. EST and be broadcast live on TNT and TBS from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. □

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'Bad Boys for Life' debuts so good with box office top spot

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two "Bad Boys" were too good for one "Dolittle" at the box office.

"Bad Boys for Life" starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence brought in \$59 million in the U.S. and Canada to score a No. 1 debut entering the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. The action-packed, buddy comedy returned for the franchise's third installment after a 17-year hiatus with popular demand to outlast "Dolittle," starring Robert Downey Jr., which opened at second with a mediocre \$22.5 million.

Sony Pictures predicted that "Bad Boys" will make around \$68 million over the four-day weekend. The film exceeded expectations, building momentum with favorable reviews including an A Cinema Score and a 76% rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

"It's a great brand with two terrific stars, a beloved franchise and it feels like summertime in January," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. He said it was a smart move by Sony Pictures to release the film during January, an unusual month for blockbusters releases but it ultimately "reaped huge benefits."

"Dolittle" barely topped the World War I film "1917," which claimed the top spot last week. The Sam Mendes-directed war film continues to hold strong with \$22.1 million this weekend after going from 11 screens in its first weeks to more than 3,600.

The Oscar-nominated epic wartime film has gained popularity after it won Golden Globes for best director and drama film a couple weeks ago. Saturday night, it won an award for theatrical motion picture at the Producers Guild

Awards, which has gone on to win best picture Oscar 21 out of 30 times, including the past two years.

"'1917' is really taking a lot of the oxygen and taking on a life of its own since the Oscar nominations and all of these awards," Dergarabedian said. "If you haven't seen '1917,' you're totally out of the loop for awards season."

Along with "Bad Boys," Sony Pictures has two other films in the top 10 at the domestic box office including Oscar-contender "Little Women" and "Jumanji: The Next Level," which crossed \$700 million worldwide.

In another blockbuster,



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Martin Lawrence, right, and Will Smith in a scene from "Bad Boys for Life."

Associated Press

"Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" topped \$1 billion globally after five weeks.

The Disney's film focusing

on the final chapter of the Luke Skywalker saga has also earned more than \$492 million domestically. □

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